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External Statements - Basin & Range, Berryessa & Waco Mammoth

1 message

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To: doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Jul 10, 2015 at 11:58 AM

Team DOI: congratulations on the big day!! Here is our first compilation of external statements that we've collected for the three monuments being designated today. I've attached them as a word document and included them in the body of this email below.

We'll plan to circulate a second compilation before the celebration event this afternoon. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! jb

Basin and Range, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth National Monument Statements

Collective Statements

U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva, Arizona

Washington, D.C. – Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva today applauded President Obama for establishing three new national monuments under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Obama announced the establishment of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, Mammoth Park National Monument in Texas and the Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada.

"I applaud President Obama for upholding our great American tradition of conservation and for continuing to make wise use of the Antiquities Act," Grijalva said. "We have a moral responsibility to conserve and protect vital habitat, natural scenery and historical treasures, and President Obama has met that responsibility again today. The law has proven its worth time and time again, and today's announcements show why it continues to be one of our country's most important conservation tools."

U.S. Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah

"President Obama has shown complete disdain for Congress and the people of Nevada, California, and Texas. This surreptitious land grab reveals that the Obama Administration will stop at nothing to lock up more and more land, with the stroke of a pen. I condemn this shameful power move which makes states and citizens fearful that the federal government can invade at any time to seize more lands like bandits in the night," said Chairman Bishop.

"The White House has made a mess out of the democratic process – which my Committee will now have to try and rectify. How this decree impacts people and their livelihoods – including public safety, water rights, economic development, recreation, and grazing – should be handled by Congress before a designation, not after the fact. Once again, the Obama Administration has put politics above people. Now, Congress is left to fix the

mess made by the White House.”

Margie Alt, Executive Director of Environment America

WASHINGTON, DC—Three of the nation’s spectacular natural and archeological wonders gain permanent protection today, as President Barack Obama creates Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas, Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California.

The announcement, backed heavily by local businesses and residents and tourists from around the country, comes two days after the U.S. House narrowly voted to block monument designations in California, Nevada and eight other states.

“Today the president continues his commitment to a uniquely American idea -- that our natural wonders should be protected for the benefit of all, not sacrificed for the short-term gain of a few,” said Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America. “Some of our nation’s most marvelous landscapes can now be enjoyed today and for generations to come.”

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region, less than 100 miles from Sacramento and the Bay Area, is home to wintering bald eagles and a host of other wildlife, and is often described as an “outdoor wonderland,” with opportunities for hiking, camping, birdwatching, hunting, and horseback riding. In August, Environment California, a member of the Environment America federation, delivered a letter from more than 100 area businesses to Obama administration officials in support of the monument designation.

“What a great way to start the weekend for anyone who hikes, rides horses, or loves to visit this scenic treasure,” said Dan Jacobson, state director of Environment California. “Californians, local area businesses, and everyone who enjoys our great outdoors have real reason to celebrate today.”

“For more than 100 years, presidents starting with Teddy Roosevelt have protected our country’s most prized natural areas as national monuments,” said Alt. “For the 19th time since taking office, today President Obama fulfills that proud American tradition.”

Gene Karpinski, President of League of Conservation Voters

“By creating these three new national monuments, President Obama is continuing his commitment to preserving America’s treasured places and cementing his well-deserved place in conservation history. The President acted in response to the overwhelming support expressed by local communities and stakeholders across the country for protecting these places of extraordinary environmental, historic, and scientific value. We celebrate America’s three newest monuments alongside the nearby communities that will see a boost to their tourism economies and quality of life.”

Mike Matz, Director of PEW’s U.S. Public Lands Program

WASHINGTON—The Pew Charitable Trusts applauds President Barack Obama’s plan to proclaim three new national monuments: Basin and Range National Monument, which will cover about 704,000 acres in Nevada, 110 miles north of Las Vegas; Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, encompassing 330,780 acres, less than 100 miles from both the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas; and the Waco Mammoth archeological site in West Texas. The Nevada monument is larger than any other land monument the president has designated to date.

Mike Matz, director of Pew’s U.S. public lands program, released the following statement:

"President Obama's plan to proclaim new national monuments in Nevada, California, and Texas speaks volumes about the power of local citizens who stand up to protect our public lands. We applaud his continued and thoughtful use of the Antiquities Act to set aside remarkable American landscapes and historic areas.

"Basin and Range National Monument will preserve a region rich in historic, cultural, and natural resources—a treasure for Nevadans and for all of us. This designation will safeguard irreplaceable Native American rock art, preserve wildlife habitat, and protect rare and sensitive plants.

"President Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, along with Senator Harry Reid and Representative Dina Titus, closely consulted with residents, business owners, community and tourism leaders, and archaeologists to ensure that this area will be conserved for the benefit of generations to come.

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is the crown jewel of Northern California's wild Inner Coast Range. An intact ecological treasure located less than 100 miles from the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas, it is accessible to millions of Californians. Visitors enjoy whitewater rafting on the wild and scenic Cache Creek, hiking in the national forest, fishing in Lake Berryessa, camping, hunting, and horseback riding.

"Stretching from Putah Creek over 100 miles to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest, it is one of the most biologically diverse regions in California. For years, members of the community worked together on a plan to preserve this special place for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. Yet legislative proposals to protect the region failed to advance in the past two Congresses, despite the support of farmers, ranchers, local and national recreation and conservation organizations, and numerous counties.

"Now, thanks to President Obama and the efforts of Representative Mike Thompson, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and other current and former members of the California congressional delegation, Berryessa Snow Mountain will become a national monument. This designation will ensure continued recreational opportunities, support the local economy, and safeguard the region's beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and waters—including important sources of drinking water and irrigation for nearby communities.

"In Texas, city officials and local leaders in Waco have been working with legislators for the past decade to make the Waco Mammoth Site part of the National Park System. Discovered by fossil hunters in 1978, the site preserves the story of a herd of Columbian mammoths believed to have been trapped by a flash flood approximately 68,000 years ago. President Obama's proclamation will bring this important archeological resource into the park system as a national monument.

"From coast to coast, communities are working to preserve natural, historic, and scenic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations. America's next national monuments, Basin and Range, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth, are outstanding local—and national—success stories."

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en>

Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

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"The Sierra Club applauds President Obama's historic and unprecedented actions today. By utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Berryessa Snow Mountain, Basin and Range, and Waco Mammoth, he has continued to add to our nation's outdoor legacy.

"By designating these new monuments, President Obama has ensured that these beautiful, historic landscapes will continue to benefit local communities for generations to come.

"It's really welcoming to see President Obama once again reward the efforts of the hundreds of people over the years who have given their passion, time, and toil to protecting our public lands."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/07/basin-and-range-berryessa-snow-mountain-and-waco-mammoth-become-nation-s-next>

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Jamie Williams, President of The Wilderness Society

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The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today from President Jamie Williams regarding the Obama Administration's intent to designate three new national monuments in California, Nevada, and Texas.

"In the absence of action from the House and Senate to move legislation forward, President Obama's proclamations will protect these stunning areas for many years to come, enabling more Americans to experience their natural and cultural wonders and providing a boost to local economies," said Williams.

"Bedrock conservation laws like the Antiquities Act help American communities build strong ties to our shared public lands and this law should be vigorously defended from current attempts to weaken it."

<https://wilderness.org/press-release/statement-wilderness-society-creation-three-new-national-monuments>

Basin and Range National Monument

U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus, Nevada

Washington, D.C. – Today Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada's First District released the following statement regarding the designation of Basin & Range National Monument, by President Obama:

"The Basin and Range National Monument stands as a showcase of Nevada's wondrous desert habitat," said Congresswoman Titus. "Home to flora and fauna native only to our state, this monument preserves and protects the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources of this significant region for generations to come. I am proud to stand with President Obama, Senator Reid, and all the Nevadans who have advocated for establishing this lasting symbol of the region's natural beauty and rich history."

Congresswoman Titus has long advocated for conservation of Nevada's open spaces and is the sponsor of H.R. 857, the Garden Valley Withdrawal Act to protect this region for generations.

U.S. Senator Dean Heller, Nevada

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"The Nevada Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan manner on conservation and public lands issues through the legislative process. With the stroke of a pen, President Obama has bypassed Congress and unilaterally restricted the use of over 700,000 acres of Nevada's public land. I have always been forthright with my position that any federal action to change access on our public lands should be discussed in an open and transparent process incorporating the input and support from local communities," said Senator Dean Heller

<http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=a5453905-2944-418f-908f-3b678690aa72>

U.S. Congressman Joe Heck, Nevada

"President Obama often says 'we are stronger as a nation when we work together.' Apparently that rule does not apply to public lands issues when it involves his political allies. The Basin and Range Monument designation goes well beyond the intention of the Antiquities Act which limits parcels reserved by the President to the 'smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.' It is beyond belief that an area larger than the state of Rhode Island is the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of this land.

"The Nevada delegation has a tradition of working together to build consensus on lands bills important to our state; consider the Tule Springs legislation or my own Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act. Those efforts were the result of years of work in Nevada and in Congress and resulted in laws that enjoy wide public support. Yet the President, with the stroke of a pen, has bypassed Congress yet again and ignored any input from Nevadans on this designation. If we are stronger when we work together, then let's actually work together."

<https://heck.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-joe-heck-statement-president-obamas-basin-and-range-monument>

Richard Bryan, Former U.S. Senator and former Nevada Governor

"As a former Senator, I am proud to have sponsored the Black Rock National Conservation Area legislation. Working closely with Senator Reid I supported the establishment of a National Conservation Area at Red Rock and a National Recreation Area at Mount Charleston.

For more than a decade Nevadans have discussed how to protect the Garden and Coal Valleys because tourism and recreation play an important part of our economy. We now have that protection. I want to thank Senator Harry Reid, Congresswoman Titus, Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama for protecting this Nevada treasure."

Kelvin Atkinson, State Senator, member of the Natural Resources committee

"I was a staunch supporter of keeping public lands in public hands this past legislative session and I am proud to add my voice in supporting Nevada's newest National Monument, Basin and Range. This will add tremendous benefits to our state's economy and I applaud Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus for their tireless work on ensuring Nevada's landscapes are protected. I also thank President Obama for using his constitutional authority to protect this land."

B&R Statements made prior to the announcement

Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman

"I consider Nevada's public lands to be a national treasure. Basin and Range is a unique opportunity where we are combining modern art with prehistoric art. I recognize the importance of protecting this place for current and future generations and wholeheartedly support any efforts to do so."

Sig Rogich, President of The Rogich Communications Group

“Nevada is indeed fortunate, if not blessed, to be the home of Michael Heizer’s City, a world-class work of art in an area that is surrounded with unparalleled beauty and unspoiled open spaces filled with thousands of archeological sites. As I did in my days in the White House as an Assistant to President George H. W. Bush, I fully support preservation of the surrounding Basin and Range landscape. This national monument designation is not only be great for our state and our economy today, but for generations to come.”

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Rayette Martin, Executive Director, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

“The Basin and Range National Monument has a high density of important cultural sites which is why Nevadans for Cultural Preservation support the designation. Through preserving this resource-rich region, people from around country will be able to continue to access and experience Nevada’s history within the landscape it was created. These areas offer invaluable opportunities for residents, visitors and future generations to learn about Nevada.”

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Chris Mero, Chairman, Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

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“Protecting Basin & Range preserves big, intact habitat for elk, sage-grouse, and other important wildlife for sportsmen, Nevadans and all Americans. A National Monument gets the job done.”

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County Nevada

“As superintendent to the nation’s fifth-largest school system, I am aware of how important exposure to history, art and the outdoors is for our students. Early archeological sites as well as globally-recognized contemporary art are inextricably linked to the Basin and Range National Monument. These are things that cannot be experienced within a museum. Conserving our irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage benefits schoolchildren and visitors, bringing a tremendous sense of pride to our state for both current and future generations.”

Mauricia Baca, Executive Director of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation

“This new national monument offers a slew of marvelous outdoor recreation activities – just two hours from Vegas. The President, Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus have protected Nevada’s history and heritage for residents and tourists alike to explore.”

Thomas Tait, Chair of the Board of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation and former Secretary of Tourism for Nevada for the Nevada Commission on Tourism

“We are pleased that increased attention is being focused on encouraging tourism on Nevada’s public lands. The future of Las Vegas is vested in the entire experience a visitor finds here. This new National Monument will be attractive to environmentally-conscious international customers while also enhancing the quality of life

for Southern Nevada residents.”

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

“Today, we extend our support for the Basin and Range area to also receive that same protection for its cultural, historical, and environmental significance. In addition to the tourism benefits, granting this protection will also ensure that local residents will have the opportunity to experience the recreation, history, and cultural elements of these outdoor attractions. Eco-tourism is a growing segment in the travel community – particularly among international travelers to Las Vegas. Overseas visitors are attracted to the Southwest landscape and the cowboy culture that is represented here. Maintaining these protected areas will help persuade international visitors to make Southern Nevada their main hub for their visit to the Southwestern United States, continuing to boost our economy.”

Tom Skancke, President, Las Vegas global economic alliance (LVGEA)

“Southern Nevada has a great tradition of preserving its surrounding natural and cultural environs for recreation and future generations. These preserved areas help to define who we are as Southern Nevadans and give us a sense of community pride, but they also help drive our economy. The designation of the Basin and Range will help drive more tourists to rural Nevada and boost the southern Nevada regional economy. ”

Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

“Designating the Basin and Range National Monument will achieve two remarkable outcomes—a world-class artwork would endure into the future as it was envisioned, surrounded by sublimely beautiful open country; and a majestic Western American landscape would remain unspoiled for future generations.”

Melissa Peterson, Board Chair of the Las Vegas Arts Council

“The West’s wide-open, protected landscapes set America apart from the rest of the world, and define who we are as Nevadans. Basin and Range brings together geology, archaeology, history and art. What better gift to give our children than the permanent protection of this area?”

Elaine Wynn

“The significance of the Basin and Range area and *City* by Michael Heizer cannot be understated. This will change the face of Nevada; it will create a whole new kind of tourism to our state. Nevada is growing up and we should take steps necessary to capture this unique place for now and for generations to come. I’m proud to be an original champion of protecting Basin and Range.”

Pete Ernaut, R&R Partners

“Michael Heizer could have chosen potentially any landscape, but he chose Nevada for the Western spirit we represent. He specifically chose Garden Valley for its remote location, unspoiled valleys, and its naturally available materials. The Worthington Mountains, Golden Gate Range, and Mount Irish provide the perfect scenic backdrop for *City*. These mountain ranges include wilderness areas and incredible opportunities for recreation. Together, they create a place that is uniquely Nevadan, but belongs now, to the world.”

Michael Brown, Barrick Mining

“Barrick has a long history in Nevada, now employing more than 4,000 and leading the state in gold

production. Our employees and their families work and live throughout Nevada and they place great value in the natural and cultural features of the lands they call home. As the Executive Director, I support the permanent preservation of the lands surrounding *City*."

Jenna Morton, Morton Group

"As the daughter of an archaeologist, I am all too aware of the challenge of reconstructing the story of our forbears from shards. Southern Nevada public lands are the legacy we will leave our children—intact. Basin and Range is unique in cultural resources and landscapes and deserves permanent preservation for us, for all of our children, and for their children."

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of Conservation Lands Foundation

"At a time when America's open spaces are rapidly disappearing, it is encouraging to see President Obama set aside some of Nevada's most scenic mountains and valleys as the Basin and Range National Monument. This area is like no place else on earth. With its unspoiled vistas, petroglyphs, and wildlife habitat, Basin and Range National Monument is an ideal addition to our National Conservation Lands."

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Bill Dodd, California State Assemblymember

"The designation of this unique area as a national monument will help preserve the region's natural splendor for future generations. The national monument will provide continued recreational opportunities and will bring enhanced visitation. This is a great example of how we can protect our environment and support our local economy."

Anthony Farrington, Lake County Supervisor

"The Berryessa-Snow Mountain region provides easily-accessible opportunities for those living in Sacramento and the Bay Area to come up for a weekend and enjoy the recreation that this area has to offer. The benefits of such protection will extend far beyond the land itself to the surrounding areas, bringing new visitors to our communities as they take advantage of our recreational opportunities."

Cecilia Aguiar-Currey, Winters Mayor

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is an enormous victory for our region. This area is often referred to as our "wild backyard," and I am delighted that these lands are now protected permanently. Another benefit to protecting this amazing landscape is increased visibility, which will be advantageous to our local economies. This designation will encourage more visitation. Those passing through to these lands are likely to stop for a bite to eat, and some might want to stay an extra day to take in the scenery and enjoy the services and amenities offered by our local communities."

Don Amador, Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition

"I am proud to support the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument because it will forever safeguard the trails and recreational opportunities that so many people, including myself, enjoy. Congressman Thompson worked hard to give all stakeholders a place at the table by forging partnerships, listening to community concerns, and making sure everyone's input was included in the legislation leading up to this designation. I appreciate President Obama listening to our community and taking action to protect this spectacular place."

Reno Franklin, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe and former Chair of National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument brings with it the opportunity to forever protect thousands of the most beautiful lands that California has to offer. The rich history, rare natural resources and unique cultural landscape are a treasure that must be protected for future generations to enjoy. The administration needs to champion more collaborative preservation projects like this. Ones where there is a group effort of tribal communities, local communities, environmental groups, elected state and federal officials and local, state and federal agencies that all support the shared group vision of this National Monument."

John Pickerel, Owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse

"As a local business owner, I am thrilled to see President Obama take action to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. It will help our local economy and give local businesses more opportunities to thrive. Protecting these lands safeguards the region's natural resources and wildlife habitat and will enhance recreational opportunities for everyone. It will encourage tourism particularly along scenic Highway 128 from Winters to Napa and create a desirable place for people to live and work."

Craig McNamara, Walnut Farmer & Land Owner

"As a farmer, my livelihood depends on land and water. Without either, I'm out of business, which is why it is especially important to me to do all I can to conserve. Healthy landscapes and clean water is part of what makes Northern California such a special place to live and work, which is why I support the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument."

Linda Reiff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Napa Valley Vintners

"Napa Valley Vintners understand that water is the lifeblood of any agricultural community. Without protected sources of clean water, particularly given the current scarcity in California, agriculture becomes untenable. This is why protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument is so important to those who depend on the waters this designation will protect."

Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited

"TU members and California sportsmen are proud to have played a role in protecting this California crown jewel, and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations in the many streams and lakes that support outstanding fishing for trout and bass," said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. "Thank you, President Obama for protecting this amazing landscape, and ensuring that future generations of sportsmen will have access to clean water and

intact habitat that support excellent fishing and hunting opportunities.”

Sara Husby, Executive Director, Tuleyome

“We are ecstatic that President Obama has recognized the importance of protecting these special lands,” said Sara Husby, Executive Director for Tuleyome - the regional conservation organization that spearheaded the protection efforts. “Together with our congressional champions and the many, many supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region we got this done. I am overjoyed.”

Waco Mammoth National Monument

Suzanne Dixon, Senior Director, Regional Director of NPCA

“We are grateful that President Obama has stepped forward to protect one of Texas’s unique and valuable natural treasures. The community asked for the designation and the president answered. This new national monument will benefit the city’s economy as well as schoolchildren, scientists and other visitors to this site. Waco Mammoth is a window to a world lost long ago, and with this designation, visitors from across the country will be able to continue learning about the science and history of these amazing creatures.

“Waco Mammoth is a classic site for inclusion in our National Park System. It is the nation’s only discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene-era mammoths, and there is no other Park Service site specifically set aside to tell their story. The bones at Waco Mammoth provide a glimpse into North America’s wild past, enabling us to see what lived here tens of thousands of years ago.


“Waco Mammoth is a perfect example of public-private collaboration to protect our nation’s natural and historical landmarks. Committed and creative citizens recognized this site was worth protecting and worked together to ensure the excavation site is world-class so that it may one day be ready for the support of the National Park Service. Today, years of hard work and dedication by the Waco and Baylor University communities finally paid off, ensuring this invaluable educational landmark will continue to be explored and cherished by kids and adults along for many years to come.”

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

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Basin and Range, Berrysessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth National Monument Statements

Collective Statements 3

 Congressman Raul Grijalva, Arizona 3

 Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah 3

 Environment America 3

 League of Conservation Voters 4

 PEW 4

 Sierra Club 5

 The Wilderness Society 5

Basin and Range 7

 U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus 7

 U.S. Senator Dean Heller..... 7

 U.S. Congressman Joe Heck 7

 Richard Bryan, former U.S. Senator and former Nevada Governor 8

 Kevin Atkinson, Nevada State Senator..... 8

 Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman 8

 Rogich Communications Group 8

 Nevadans for Cultural Preservation 8

 Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers..... 9

 Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County Nevada 9

 Outside Las Vegas Foundation 9

 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority 9

 Las Vegas global economic alliance (LVGEA) 9

 Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art..... 10

 Melissa Peterson, Board Chair of the Las Vegas Arts Council..... 10

 Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman 10

 Elaine Wynn 10

 Pete Ernaut, R&R Partners 10

 Michael Brown, Barrick Mining 10

Jenna Morton, Morton Group 10

Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of Conservation Lands Foundation 10

Berryessa Snow Mountain 11

Bill Dodd, California State Assemblymember 11

Anthony Farrington, Lake County Supervisor 11

Cecilia Aguiar-Currey, Winters Mayor 11

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Reno Franklin, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe and former Chair of National Association of Tribal
Historic Preservation Officers 11

John Pickerel, Owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse 12

Craig McNamara, Walnut Farmer & Land Owner 12

Linda Reiff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Napa Valley Vintners 12

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Sara Husby, Executive Director, Tuleyome 12

Waco Mammoth 13

Suzanne Dixon, Senior Director, Regional Director of NPCA 13

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“Stretching from Putah Creek over 100 miles to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest, it is one of the most biologically diverse regions in California. For years, members of the community worked together on a plan to preserve this special place for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. Yet legislative proposals to protect the region failed to advance in the past two Congresses, despite the support of farmers, ranchers, local and national recreation and conservation organizations, and numerous counties.

“Now, thanks to President Obama and the efforts of Representative Mike Thompson, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and other current and former members of the California congressional delegation, Berryessa Snow Mountain will become a national monument. This designation will ensure continued recreational opportunities, support the local economy, and safeguard the region's beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and waters—including important sources of drinking water and irrigation for nearby communities.

“In Texas, city officials and local leaders in Waco have been working with legislators for the past decade to make the Waco Mammoth Site part of the National Park System. Discovered by fossil hunters in 1978, the site preserves the story of a herd of Columbian mammoths believed to have been trapped by a flash flood approximately 68,000 years ago. President Obama's proclamation will bring this important archeological resource into the park system as a national monument.

“From coast to coast, communities are working to preserve natural, historic, and scenic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations. America's next national monuments, Basin and Range, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth, are outstanding local—and national—success stories.”

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en>

Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

“The Sierra Club applauds President Obama's historic and unprecedented actions today. By utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Berryessa Snow Mountain, Basin and Range, and Waco Mammoth, he has continued to add to our nation's outdoor legacy.

“By designating these new monuments, President Obama has ensured that these beautiful, historic landscapes will continue to benefit local communities for generations to come.

“It's really welcoming to see President Obama once again reward the efforts of the hundreds of people over the years who have given their passion, time, and toil to protecting our public lands.”

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/07/basin-and-range-berryessa-snow-mountain-and-waco-mammoth-become-nation-s-next>

Jamie Williams, President of The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today from President Jamie Williams regarding the Obama Administration's intent to designate three new national monuments in California, Nevada, and Texas.

“In the absence of action from the House and Senate to move legislation forward, President Obama’s proclamations will protect these stunning areas for many years to come, enabling more Americans to experience their natural and cultural wonders and providing a boost to local economies,” said Williams.

“Bedrock conservation laws like the Antiquities Act help American communities build strong ties to our shared public lands and this law should be vigorously defended from current attempts to weaken it.”

<https://wilderness.org/press-release/statement-wilderness-society-creation-three-new-national-monuments>

Basin and Range National Monument

U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus, Nevada

Washington, D.C. – Today Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada’s First District released the following statement regarding the designation of Basin & Range National Monument, by President Obama:

“The Basin and Range National Monument stands as a showcase of Nevada’s wondrous desert habitat,” said Congresswoman Titus. “Home to flora and fauna native only to our state, this monument preserves and protects the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources of this significant region for generations to come. I am proud to stand with President Obama, Senator Reid, and all the Nevadans who have advocated for establishing this lasting symbol of the region’s natural beauty and rich history.”

Congresswoman Titus has long advocated for conservation of Nevada’s open spaces and is the sponsor of H.R. 857, the Garden Valley Withdrawal Act to protect this region for generations.

U.S. Senator Dean Heller, Nevada

“The Nevada Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan manner on conservation and public lands issues through the legislative process. With the stroke of a pen, President Obama has bypassed Congress and unilaterally restricted the use of over 700,000 acres of Nevada’s public land. I have always been forthright with my position that any federal action to change access on our public lands should be discussed in an open and transparent process incorporating the input and support from local communities,” said Senator Dean Heller

<http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=a5453905-2944-418f-908f-3b678690aa72>

U.S. Congressman Joe Heck, Nevada

"President Obama often says 'we are stronger as a nation when we work together.' Apparently that rule does not apply to public lands issues when it involves his political allies. The Basin and Range Monument designation goes well beyond the intention of the Antiquities Act which limits parcels reserved by the President to the 'smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.' It is beyond belief that an area larger than the state of Rhode Island is the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of this land.

"The Nevada delegation has a tradition of working together to build consensus on lands bills important to our state; consider the Tule Springs legislation or my own Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act. Those efforts were the result of years of work in Nevada and in Congress and resulted in laws that enjoy wide public support. Yet the President, with the stroke of a pen, has bypassed Congress yet again and ignored any input from Nevadans on this designation. If we are stronger when we work together, then let's actually work together."

<https://heck.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-joe-heck-statement-president-obamas-basin-and-range-monument>

Richard Bryan, Former U.S. Senator and former Nevada Governor

“As a former Senator, I am proud to have sponsored the Black Rock National Conservation Area legislation. Working closely with Senator Reid I supported the establishment of a National Conservation Area at Red Rock and a National Recreation Area at Mount Charleston.

For more than a decade Nevadans have discussed how to protect the Garden and Coal Valleys because tourism and recreation play an important part of our economy. We now have that protection. I want to thank Senator Harry Reid, Congresswoman Titus, Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama for protecting this Nevada treasure.”

Kelvin Atkinson, State Senator, member of the Natural Resources committee

“I was a staunch supporter of keeping public lands in public hands this past legislative session and I am proud to add my voice in supporting Nevada's newest National Monument, Basin and Range. This will add tremendous benefits to our state's economy and I applaud Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus for their tireless work on ensuring Nevada's landscapes are protected. I also thank President Obama for using his constitutional authority to protect this land.”

Statements made prior to the announcement

Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman

“I consider Nevada’s public lands to be a national treasure. Basin and Range is a unique opportunity where we are combining modern art with prehistoric art. I recognize the importance of protecting this place for current and future generations and wholeheartedly support any efforts to do so.”

Sig Rogich, President of The Rogich Communications Group

“Nevada is indeed fortunate, if not blessed, to be the home of Michael Heizer’s City, a world-class work of art in an area that is surrounded with unparalleled beauty and unspoiled open spaces filled with thousands of archeological sites. As I did in my days in the White House as an Assistant to President George H. W. Bush, I fully support preservation of the surrounding Basin and Range landscape. This national monument designation is not only be great for our state and our economy today, but for generations to come.”

Rayette Martin, Executive Director, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

“The Basin and Range National Monument has a high density of important cultural sites which is why Nevadans for Cultural Preservation support the designation. Through preserving this resource-rich region, people from around country will be able to continue to access and experience Nevada’s history within the landscape it was created. These areas offer invaluable opportunities for residents, visitors and future generations to learn about Nevada.”

Chris Mero, Chairman, Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

“Protecting Basin & Range preserves big, intact habitat for elk, sage-grouse, and other important wildlife for sportsmen, Nevadans and all Americans. A National Monument gets the job done.”

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County Nevada

"As superintendent to the nation's fifth-largest school system, I am aware of how important exposure to history, art and the outdoors is for our students. Early archeological sites as well as globally-recognized contemporary art are inextricably linked to the Basin and Range National Monument. These are things that cannot be experienced within a museum. Conserving our irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage benefits schoolchildren and visitors, bringing a tremendous sense of pride to our state for both current and future generations."

Mauricia Baca, Executive Director of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation

“This new national monument offers a slew of marvelous outdoor recreation activities – just two hours from Vegas. The President, Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus have protected Nevada’s history and heritage for residents and tourists alike to explore.”

Thomas Tait, Chair of the Board of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation and former Secretary of Tourism for Nevada for the Nevada Commission on Tourism

“We are pleased that increased attention is being focused on encouraging tourism on Nevada’s public lands. The future of Las Vegas is vested in the entire experience a visitor finds here. This new National Monument will be attractive to environmentally-conscious international customers while also enhancing the quality of life for Southern Nevada residents.”

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

“Today, we extend our support for the Basin and Range area to also receive that same protection for its cultural, historical, and environmental significance. In addition to the tourism benefits, granting this protection will also ensure that local residents will have the opportunity to experience the recreation, history, and cultural elements of these outdoor attractions. Eco-tourism is a growing segment in the travel community – particularly among international travelers to Las Vegas. Overseas visitors are attracted to the Southwest landscape and the cowboy culture that is represented here. Maintaining these protected areas will help persuade international visitors to make Southern Nevada their main hub for their visit to the Southwestern United States, continuing to boost our economy.”

Tom Skancke, President, Las Vegas global economic alliance (LVGEA)

“Southern Nevada has a great tradition of preserving its surrounding natural and cultural environs for recreation and future generations. These preserved areas help to define who we are as Southern Nevadans and give us a sense of community pride, but they also help drive our economy. The designation of the Basin and Range will help drive more tourists to rural Nevada and boost the southern Nevada regional economy. ”

Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

“Designating the Basin and Range National Monument will achieve two remarkable outcomes—a world-class artwork would endure into the future as it was envisioned, surrounded by sublimely beautiful open country; and a majestic Western American landscape would remain unspoiled for future generations.”

Melissa Peterson, Board Chair of the Las Vegas Arts Council

“The West’s wide-open, protected landscapes set America apart from the rest of the world, and define who we are as Nevadans. Basin and Range brings together geology, archaeology, history and art. What better gift to give our children than the permanent protection of this area?”

Elaine Wynn

“The significance of the Basin and Range area and *City* by Michael Heizer cannot be understated. This will change the face of Nevada; it will create a whole new kind of tourism to our state. Nevada is growing up and we should take steps necessary to capture this unique place for now and for generations to come. I’m proud to be an original champion of protecting Basin and Range.”

Pete Ernaut, R&R Partners

“Michael Heizer could have chosen potentially any landscape, but he chose Nevada for the Western spirit we represent. He specifically chose Garden Valley for its remote location, unspoiled valleys, and its naturally available materials. The Worthington Mountains, Golden Gate Range, and Mount Irish provide the perfect scenic backdrop for *City*. These mountain ranges include wilderness areas and incredible opportunities for recreation. Together, they create a place that is uniquely Nevadan, but belongs now, to the world.”

Michael Brown, Barrick Mining

“Barrick has a long history in Nevada, now employing more than 4,000 and leading the state in gold production. Our employees and their families work and live throughout Nevada and they place great value in the natural and cultural features of the lands they call home. As the Executive Director, I support the permanent preservation of the lands surrounding *City*.”

Jenna Morton, Morton Group

“As the daughter of an archaeologist, I am all too aware of the challenge of reconstructing the story of our forbears from shards. Southern Nevada public lands are the legacy we will leave our children—intact. Basin and Range is unique in cultural resources and landscapes and deserves permanent preservation for us, for all of our children, and for their children.”

Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of Conservation Lands Foundation

“At a time when America’s open spaces are rapidly disappearing, it is encouraging to see President Obama set aside some of Nevada’s most scenic mountains and valleys as the Basin and Range National Monument. This area is like no place else on earth. With its unspoiled vistas, petroglyphs, and wildlife habitat, Basin and Range National Monument is an ideal addition to our National Conservation Lands.”

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Bill Dodd, California State Assemblymember

"The designation of this unique area as a national monument will help preserve the region's natural splendor for future generations. The national monument will provide continued recreational opportunities and will bring enhanced visitation. This is a great example of how we can protect our environment and support our local economy."

Anthony Farrington, Lake County Supervisor

"The Berryessa-Snow Mountain region provides easily-accessible opportunities for those living in Sacramento and the Bay Area to come up for a weekend and enjoy the recreation that this area has to offer. The benefits of such protection will extend far beyond the land itself to the surrounding areas, bringing new visitors to our communities as they take advantage of our recreational opportunities."

Cecilia Aguiar-Currey, Winters Mayor

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is an enormous victory for our region. This area is often referred to as our "wild backyard," and I am delighted that these lands are now protected permanently. Another benefit to protecting this amazing landscape is increased visibility, which will be advantageous to our local economies. This designation will encourage more visitation. Those passing through to these lands are likely to stop for a bite to eat, and some might want to stay an extra day to take in the scenery and enjoy the services and amenities offered by our local communities."

Don Amador, Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition

"I am proud to support the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument because it will forever safeguard the trails and recreational opportunities that so many people, including myself, enjoy. Congressman Thompson worked hard to give all stakeholders a place at the table by forging partnerships, listening to community concerns, and making sure everyone's input was included in the legislation leading up to this designation. I appreciate President Obama listening to our community and taking action to protect this spectacular place."

Reno Franklin, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe and former Chair of National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument brings with it the opportunity to forever protect thousands of the most beautiful lands that California has to offer. The rich history, rare natural resources and unique cultural landscape are a treasure that must be protected for future generations to enjoy. The administration needs to champion more collaborative preservation projects like this. Ones where there is a group effort of tribal communities, local communities, environmental groups, elected state and federal officials and local, state and federal agencies that all support the shared group vision of this National Monument."

John Pickerel, Owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse

“As a local business owner, I am thrilled to see President Obama take action to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. It will help our local economy and give local businesses more opportunities to thrive. Protecting these lands safeguards the region’s natural resources and wildlife habitat and will enhance recreational opportunities for everyone. It will encourage tourism particularly along scenic Highway 128 from Winters to Napa and create a desirable place for people to live and work.”

Craig McNamara, Walnut Farmer & Land Owner

“As a farmer, my livelihood depends on land and water. Without either, I’m out of business, which is why it is especially important to me to do all I can to conserve. Healthy landscapes and clean water is part of what makes Northern California such a special place to live and work, which is why I support the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.”

Linda Reiff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Napa Valley Vintners

“Napa Valley Vintners understand that water is the lifeblood of any agricultural community. Without protected sources of clean water, particularly given the current scarcity in California, agriculture becomes untenable. This is why protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument is so important to those who depend on the waters this designation will protect.”

Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited

“TU members and California sportsmen are proud to have played a role in protecting this California crown jewel, and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations in the many streams and lakes that support outstanding fishing for trout and bass,” said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. “Thank you, President Obama for protecting this amazing landscape, and ensuring that future generations of sportsmen will have access to clean water and intact habitat that support excellent fishing and hunting opportunities.”

Sara Husby, Executive Director, Tuleyome

“We are ecstatic that President Obama has recognized the importance of protecting these special lands,” said Sara Husby, Executive Director for Tuleyome - the regional conservation organization that spearheaded the protection efforts. “Together with our congressional champions and the many, many supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region we got this done. I am overjoyed.”

Waco Mammoth National Monument

Suzanne Dixon, Senior Director, Regional Director of NPCA

“We are grateful that President Obama has stepped forward to protect one of Texas’s unique and valuable natural treasures. The community asked for the designation and the president answered. This new national monument will benefit the city’s economy as well as schoolchildren, scientists and other visitors to this site. Waco Mammoth is a window to a world lost long ago, and with this designation, visitors from across the country will be able to continue learning about the science and history of these amazing creatures.

“Waco Mammoth is a classic site for inclusion in our National Park System. It is the nation’s only discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene-era mammoths, and there is no other Park Service site specifically set aside to tell their story. The bones at Waco Mammoth provide a glimpse into North America’s wild past, enabling us to see what lived here tens of thousands of years ago.

“Waco Mammoth is a perfect example of public-private collaboration to protect our nation’s natural and historical landmarks. Committed and creative citizens recognized this site was worth protecting and worked together to ensure the excavation site is world-class so that it may one day be ready for the support of the National Park Service. Today, years of hard work and dedication by the Waco and Baylor University communities finally paid off, ensuring this invaluable educational landmark will continue to be explored and cherished by kids and adults along for many years to come.”



Mendoza, Felipe <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>

Invitation: Trip Planning Meeting/Call: Berryessa Snow Mountain Celeb... @ Thu Mar 3, 2016 3pm - 4pm (felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

Kerry McNellis <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 1:25 PM

Reply-To: Kerry McNellis <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>

To: felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov, abilbao@blm.gov, kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov, david_graham@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, j2stout@blm.gov, tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov, chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov, sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov, dmwilson@blm.gov, libby_marking@ios.doi.gov, jeanderson@blm.gov, emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov, mmaciel@blm.gov, steven_avila@ios.doi.gov, benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov, rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov, kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov, jkrauss@blm.gov, christine_lopez@ios.doi.gov, leah_duran@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov, lindsey_wagner-oveson@ios.doi.gov, cleff@blm.gov, francis_jacobucci@ios.doi.gov, "laura_pardue@ios.doi.gov" <liz_pardue@ios.doi.gov>, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov

Trip Planning Meeting/Call: Berryessa Snow Mountain Celebration (3/18-19)

[more details »](#)

Please join us for a meeting/call to discuss the Secretary's participation in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication Celebration events on 3/18-3/19.

Dial-in Number: (b) (5)

Participant Code: (b) (5)

Leader Code: (b) (5) (Kerry will activate)

When Thu Mar 3, 2016 3pm – 4pm Eastern Time

Where MIB can join in 6640 ([map](#))

Video call (b) (5)

Calendar felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov

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- rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov
- felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov

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

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Mendoza, Felipe <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 4, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Dec 4, 2015 at 7:05 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Interior Secretary Jewell Promotes Indian Country Climate Resilience At Climate Talks.
- + Jewell Discusses Repatriation Of Tribal Objects With French Justice Minister.
- + Jewell Touts Every Kid In A Park Initiative.
- + Report Finds LCC Program Has Achieved Some Early Milestones.
- + Environmental Groups Appeal Suspension Of New Oil, Gas Drilling Rules For Federal Land.
- + Interior Charges Newton Seminary With Failing To Return Native American Objects.
- + Continuance Granted In Leasing Dispute Over Blackfoot Tribal Land.
- + Smithsonian Magazine Profiles Waco Mammoth National Monument.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + Condition Of Over Half Of Arizona BIE Schools Considered "Poor."
- + Native American Parent Confronts "Pervasive NFL Slur" At Maryland Public School.
- + California Tribe Argues For Reconsideration Of Casino Challenge Claims.
- + Columbia River Fishers Profiled.
- + Haskell Seeking Ability To Accept Private Donations.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + Western Value Project Ads Press Republicans To Help Restore LWCP.
- + Democrats Seeking LWCF Extension In Omnibus Spending Bill.
- + Bureau Of Reclamation Optimistic On Yakima Basin Forecast.
- + LWCF Grants Wind Creek Park Funds To Renovate Playground.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + Continuing Coverage: BOEM Considers Wind Energy Development Off SC Shore.
- + DOE: Solana Solar Plant Unaffected By Developer's Insolvency.
- + US's Largest Utilities Have Not Signed Obama's Climate Pledge.
- + Moniz: Climate Change Talks Needed For Better Future.
- + Scientists: Global Warming Targets May Not Be Sufficient.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Advocacy Groups Campaign To Protect Chaco Culture National Historical Park.
- + Forbes: Wealthy Environmentalists Are Targeting Fossil Fuel Industry.
- + Spectrum LNG, Salix Remain In Running For Interior Alaska LNG Project.
- + House Approves Bill To Lift Ban On Oil Exports, Expedite LNG Permitting Process.
- + Virginia Groups Urging Officials To Halt New Fracking Operations.
- + Movement Pushing Banks To Quit Coal Sees Results.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [DOJ Drops Manslaughter Charges Against BP Deepwater Horizon Supervisors.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Democrats Support Designating Arctic National Wildlife Refuge As Wilderness.](#)
- + [Study Examines Connection Between Cattle Grazing, Sage Grouse.](#)
- + [Bald Eagle Count Increases At Lake Coeur D'Alene.](#)
- + [BLM Extends Comment Period On Sage Grouse Protections.](#)
- + [BLM Moab Field Office Moves Group Campsite Reservations Online.](#)
- + [Interest High In Montana Elk Shoulder Season Hunts.](#)
- + [Climate Change Activists Claim Fossil Fuel Drilling Agreements, Land Auctions Worsen Climate.](#)
- + [House Approves Bill To Expedite Energy Projects.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Wolf Count In Yellowstone Up Slightly In 2014.](#)
- + [NOAA Executive Moves To NFWF.](#)
- + [Hartl: Republicans Using Riders To Attack Endangered Species.](#)
- + [Anaconda Found In Brevard County, Florida.](#)
- + [Federal Wildlife Officer In Minnesota Profiled.](#)
- + [FWS Criticized For Offering Eagle Take Permits To Wind Energy Companies. **Headline: Court Cancels 30-year Federal Permits Letting Wind Companies Kill Eagles.**](#)
- + [Fishers Reintroduced To Cascades In Washington State.](#)
- + [FWS Says Black-footed Ferret Restoration Efforts Successful So Far.](#)
- + [Nevada Mining Association President Defends Multiple Use Of Public Lands.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Fort Union Trading Post Soliciting Comments On Housing Plan.](#)
- + [Park Officials Tour North Field National Historic Landmark.](#)
- + [House Hears Testimony On National Park Centennial Legislation.](#)
- + [Oldest Full-Time Park Ranger To Light National Christmas Tree.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS Reports Magnitude 3.4 Earthquake Near Fort Bragg.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama Says San Bernardino Shooting Possibly "Terrorist-Related."](#)
- + [White House Says Obama Won't Support Spending Bill With Riders.](#)
- + [Senate Approves Measure To Repeal ACA.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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 SECRETARY JEWELL PROMOTES INDIAN COUNTRY CLIMATE RESILIENCE AT CLIMATE TALKS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (12/3, 47K) continues coverage of Interior Secretary Jewell's leadership of a panel discussion at the climate talks in Paris, where she outlined US initiatives to "prepare communities and the ecosystems they depend on for the impacts of climate change." Jewell said climate

change is “one of [her] highest priorities,” and that she is “very proud to work for President Obama, who has taken historic action” on the issue. Jewell explained “no country is immune” to the impact of climate change, and that “no country can solve [it] on its own.” Jewell promoted the concept of “climate resilience,” asserting it is “realistic and acknowledges that climate change impacts are happening,” while also being “hopeful.” The article focuses on how “Jewell highlighted work within Indian country as examples of what the U.S. is doing to improve climate change within communities.”

JEWELL DISCUSSES REPATRIATION OF TRIBAL OBJECTS WITH FRENCH JUSTICE MINISTER. The [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (12/4, 442) reports that on Wednesday Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “met with French Minister of Justice Christiane Taubira to express the United States’ concern about tribal sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony that are sold at French auction houses and to seek cooperation in working to repatriate objects to American Indian tribes.” The leaders “agreed to explore pathways that might provide greater protections for U.S. tribes seeking to repatriate their cultural property.” Jewell explained to Taubira the unique relationship the federal government has with federally recognized Native American tribes.

JEWELL TOUTS EVERY KID IN A PARK INITIATIVE. The [Tucson \(AZ\) Local Media](#) (12/4, Allen) reported on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s trip to Saguaro National Park West, where she gave away free passes to promote the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative. Jewell is quoted as saying, “Today in America, children spend about 56 hours a week in front of some form of a screen during their recreational time, while that same child, on average, spends a mere 30 minutes a week in unstructured outside play.” Jewell told attendees at the picnic ground, “Fourth grade is the right timeframe to capture a child’s interests. There are 4 million fourth graders in the country and our goal is to reach the lion’s share of them. Hopefully every fourth grader in America will take advantage of this program. Over a million passes have already been downloaded from the web and while I don’t know how many were fourth graders, I do know there have been a lot.” To the Santa Rosa school kids, Jewell said: “This is your ancestral land. You should know the richness and beauty of the area’s natural world and we want to provide that introduction in a way that honors and respects tribal culture.”

REPORT FINDS LCC PROGRAM HAS ACHIEVED SOME EARLY MILESTONES. [Greenwire](#) (12/3, Streater, Subscription Publication) reports that a committee of experts appointed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine issued a report on the effectiveness of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) program established in 2009 by former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. The report found the LCC has “achieved ‘numerous objectives and milestones’ in a short period of time,” including creation of “a network of 22 individual conservation cooperatives covering specific regions across the United States.” However, it also said the LCC “still has work to do, including developing a system that can track whether the program is actually improving wildlife habitat conditions.” The 201-page report emphasized the “ambitious” goals of the program. [Science Daily](#) (12/4, 59K) similarly summarizes the report.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS APPEAL SUSPENSION OF NEW OIL, GAS DRILLING RULES FOR FEDERAL LAND. The [AP](#) (12/4, Gruver) reports that environmental groups including the Sierra Club have appealed US District Judge Scott Skavdahl’s “decision to suspend new rules for oil and gas drilling on federal land across the U.S. pending the outcome of a legal challenge to those rules.” The environmental groups argue the rules should be allowed to take effect to protect the environment from fracking and other industry practices, but Skavdahl “disagreed and blocked the rules from taking effect while the lawsuit contesting them moves ahead.” Skavdahl asserted that the fact that the EPA lacks authority to regulate fracking “doesn’t give the Interior Department leeway to do so.”

This story is also carried in the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/4, Gruver, 283K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/4, Gruver, 825K), and on the websites of [Yahoo! News](#) (12/4, Gruver, 6.43M) and [ABC News](#) (12/4, Gruver).

INTERIOR CHARGES NEWTON SEMINARY WITH FAILING TO RETURN NATIVE AMERICAN OBJECTS. The [Boston Globe](#) (12/4, Gay, 1M) reports that the Department of the Interior wrote to the Andover Newton Theological School, accusing it of failing to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act by neglecting to turn over portions of a collection of Native American and native Hawaiian cultural objects to “their rightful tribal heirs.” The Interior requested that the Newton seminary “make a list of all the Native American cultural items in the collection and submit it to any tribe that may have an interest, as well as to federal officials.” School officials are quoted asserting they will comply with the government’s requests, but they say they “intend to sell those items only to persons and institutions that fully respect the heritage, history and spiritual traditions of Native Americans.”

CONTINUANCE GRANTED IN LEASING DISPUTE OVER BLACKFOOT TRIBAL LAND. The [AP](#) (12/4) reports that on Thursday a federal court granted the request of the Interior Department and Louisiana energy

company Solenex to pause court proceedings until January 8 in a dispute over a lease near Montana's Glacier National Park. The AP noted that "the Interior Department last month said it plans to cancel the 6,200-acre lease" on lands considered sacred by the Blackfoot tribes. The parties sought additional time to resolve the case outside of court. This story is also carried in [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (12/3), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/4, Brown, 283K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/3, 76K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/4, 118K), and on the websites of [KECI-TV Missoula, MT](#) (12/4, NBCMontana, 1K) and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (12/4, NBCMontana, 1K).

[Greenwire](#) (12/3, Subscription Publication) explains that in 2013 Solenex sued "to lift the now-three-decade hold put on development" by the Interior Department. [Reuters](#) (12/4, Rascoe) reports similarly.

SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE PROFILES WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT. [Smithsonian](#) (12/4, Gannon, 336K) reports that the Waco Mammoth National Monument became one of the country's newest national monuments in July. Smithsonian explains that the site discovered by accident in 1978 by two 19-year-olds who alerted paleontologists at Baylor University, sparking an excavation that yielded 22 Columbian mammoths, a camel, and the tooth of a saber-tooth cat. Smithsonian points out that the deposit is unique because it appears to be the result of a mass grave from a natural disaster. Smithsonian says that the mammoths appear to have died during a flood, or two separate flood events around 66,000 years ago. Smithsonian reports that "in the mid-2000s, local advocates formed the Waco Mammoth Foundation and raised over \$4.5 million to build a permanent shelter over the bones" and by the time "Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell visited the site for its official dedication in October, she said it was like being presented 'a national park in a box.'"

Empowering Native American Communities:

CONDITION OF OVER HALF OF ARIZONA BIE SCHOOLS CONSIDERED "POOR." [KJZZ-FM Phoenix](#) (12/4, Jung, 8K) reports online that over half of the 54 schools funded by BIE "in Arizona are considered by the federal government to be in poor condition." KJZZ says that many schools need over \$2 million in repairs and have been waiting on BIE for years to replace facilities. KJZZ profiles the Crystal Boarding School where "large cracks run through the walls of the school's four dormitories," there is a faulty furnace, and a failing electrical system. KJZZ say that 41 schools were put on a BIE replacement list in 2004 but BIE Director Dr. Charles Monty Roessel said at a congressional hearing in May that "money available for school replacement is tight and the agency is only now getting funding to finish replacing schools from the 2004 list."

NATIVE AMERICAN PARENT CONFRONTS "PERVASIVE NFL SLUR" AT MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL. Jared Hautamaki, a federal-agency attorney, writes at [Education Week](#) (12/4, Hautamaki, 130K) about dropping off his child a kindergarten at a Montgomery County public school where he "encountered the principal and several staff members celebrating the start of the NFL season and the Washington team's first NFL home game." He says that the word "redskin" is offensive and disparaging. He alerted the principal, board of education and a local reporter with no response from school officials. Hautamaki testified an October board meeting where the interim superintendent said they would "continue to monitor the impact and respond to the issue by benchmarking their actions against those of other Washington-area school districts." He points out that in the Washington region, the BIA, the Department of the Interior, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, tribal lobby offices, and tribal law firms all employ a number of Native Americans.

CALIFORNIA TRIBE ARGUES FOR RECONSIDERATION OF CASINO CHALLENGE CLAIMS. [Law360](#) (12/4, Sheehan, 30K) reports that on Wednesday the Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community argued in federal court in California for reconsideration of its suit over a rival tribe's casino plans, asserting the case should not be dismissed. The tribe's arguments against the Interior Department during administrative review did not constitute a waiver of its claims, the tribe contended.

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHERS PROFILED. The [New Yorker](#) (12/4, Nijhuis, 4.84M) profiles fishers along the Columbia River who camp "on one of five so-called in-lieu sites, plots of land that are owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and reserved for use by members of the four federally recognized tribes that historically fished this section of the Columbia—the Yakama, the Umatilla, the Warm Springs, and the Nez Perce." The [New Yorker](#) explains that "the sites were authorized by Congress in 1945, after villages and fishing grounds were flooded by federal dam development" and "are an archipelago of jurisdictional complexity that is unique to the area." The [New Yorker](#) says that during "the past half century, the people who live full- or part-time at the in-lieu sites have formed what the historian Andrew Fisher calls a 'shadow tribe'—one identified more closely with their submerged ancestral land than their distant reservations, and intermittently at odds with tribal, state, and federal authorities alike."

HASKELL SEEKING ABILITY TO ACCEPT PRIVATE DONATIONS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (12/3, Lee, 47K) reports that Haskell Indian Nations University President Venida Chenault says that the university is looking for new resources to educate the tribal leaders of the future and that “a first step is to convince Congress to pass legislation that would allow Haskell to be able to accept donations without losing any part of the university’s federal appropriation and that would provide federal matching funds for contributions.” The Network points out that “the federal government is Haskell’s only source of funding, aside from nominal student fees” and that the school “is currently funded at \$12 million annually.” However, other federally-funded, higher-education institutions do not operated under the same restrictions.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WESTERN VALUE PROJECT ADS PRESS REPUBLICANS TO HELP RESTORE LWCP. [Florida Politics](#) (12/4, Perry) reported that The Western Value Project, an environmental group, is airing TV ads calling on four House Republicans “to help restore the federal Land and Water Conservation Program.” House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) blocked reauthorization for the fund earlier this year, and the advertisement said the “congressman, backed by big oil, is putting up road blocks to end funding for thousands of parks, playgrounds and trails in every state by blocking renewal of the bipartisan land and water fund, which uses no taxpayer money and helped protect the Everglades.”

DEMOCRATS SEEKING LWCF EXTENSION IN OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/4, Koss, 705) reports that as congressional budget talks “are kicking into high gear,” Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) opined that Senate Democrats are asking for “so many different things” in the bill, “citing an extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), as well as extensions of the renewable production tax credit and investment tax credit, and a ‘long elimination of riders.’”

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OPTIMISTIC ON YAKIMA BASIN FORECAST. [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (12/4, 3K) reports on its website that South and Central Washington are “still dealing with severe drought conditions.” Bureau of Reclamation hydrologist Chris Lynch responded optimistically, saying that while the Yakima Basin reservoirs are at 26 percent of average, “There is so much of the story left to unfold, we could get so much precipitation in December, January, and hopefully February, and we just need a couple degrees colder and we’ll get it as snow.” The Bureau of Reclamation “says we will still have a long winter ahead and things could always change, they won’t make an actual predication on a forecast for the summer until later in the spring.”

LWCF GRANTS WIND CREEK PARK FUNDS TO RENOVATE PLAYGROUND. The [Alexander City \(AL\) Outlook](#) (12/3, Granger, 12K) reports that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) granted \$51,000 to Wind Creek State Park for playground renovations to be focused on “erosion control and new equipment.” The article emphasizes the need for the renovations, and notes it is “one of four Alabama state parks and 10 towns and cities in the state that will benefit from more than \$700,000 in grant money aimed at improving recreation in the state.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CONTINUING COVERAGE: BOEM CONSIDERS WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OFF SC SHORE. [JD Supra](#) (12/4, 6K) continues coverage of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s (BOEM) actions to propose lease sites off the coast of South Carolina for wind energy development. The article calls offshore wind an “abundant renewable resource,” that “could be used to produce electricity without many of the impacts of traditional power plant construction and operation.” JD Supra outlines the process for leasing through the BOEM.

DOE: SOLANA SOLAR PLANT UNAFFECTED BY DEVELOPER’S INSOLVENCY. The [Arizona Republic](#) (12/3, Randazzo, 960K) reports that the 250-megawatt Solana Generating Station owned by Abengoa Solar and supplying APS is not expected to be affected by Abengoa’s insolvency, according to DOE officials. Revenue generated by the plant is being used to repay a \$1.45 billion Federal loan which supported the project’s construction. “Solana...is repaying its loan with interest,” Energy Department spokesman Bart Jackson said. “We will continue to closely monitor its status throughout the life of the loan guarantees to protect taxpayer interests.” Jackson added that DOE’s \$32 billion loan portfolio is “performing very well, with losses of only approximately 2 percent of the entire loan portfolio.”

US'S LARGEST UTILITIES HAVE NOT SIGNED OBAMA'S CLIMATE PLEDGE. [McClatchy](#) (12/4, Pugh, 27K) says the President's "corporate pledge of support for more action on climate change is slowly gathering momentum" as 154 companies "spanning a wide range of industries have signed the American Business Act on Climate Pledge." Signatories include "a variety of energy companies, including Calpine Corp., British-based National Grid, Portland General Electric and Berkshire Hathaway Energy," but "of the nation's 20 largest electric utilities, only Pacific Gas and Electric, California's largest utility company, has signed the pledge." The nation's four largest electric utilities – Duke Energy, Dominion Resources, NextEra Energy, and Southern Company – have not signed.

MONIZ: CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS NEEDED FOR BETTER FUTURE. In an online video on [CNN](#) (12/3, 3.54M), Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz discussed the San Bernardino shootings and also said that the Paris climate change talks "are a good example of needing to build a future that will be clean, that will address the risks of climate change, that also will bring prosperity, bring security, and hopefully bring energy services to the poor."

Poll: Most Americans Want US To Lead Action On Climate Change. The [Huffington Post](#) (12/4, Edwards-Levy, 251K) reports that according to a set of HuffPost/YouGov polls, "a 52 percent majority of Americans think the U.S. should take a global leadership role in trying to prevent climate change, while 26 percent think it should not, with the rest unsure."

SCIENTISTS: GLOBAL WARMING TARGETS MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT. [USA Today](#) (12/4, Lyman, 5.56M) says that while negotiators at the climate talks in Paris "are working to produce a realistic plan to limit global warming to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial levels," according to "many scientists" that goal "may still be too warm to avert climate catastrophes." USA Today says more than 100 developing countries "have called for the official goal to be shifted toward a rise of only 1.5 degrees Celsius," but adds that the "lower threshold is unlikely to become the official goal anytime soon because of opposition from industrialized countries, including the United States."

Onshore Energy Development:

ADVOCACY GROUPS CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. [EnergyWire](#) (12/3, Gilmer, Subscription Publication) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association, Archaeology Southwest, Park Rangers for Our Lands and Partnership for Responsible Business have launched a campaign to bring awareness to oil and gas development they consider a threat to Chaco Culture National Historical Park and the surrounding area in New Mexico. The report points out that "the national historical park itself is protected from drilling, but the checkerboard of federal, state and tribal lands surrounding the park has seen a quick uptick in wells over the past few years."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/3, Fenton, 263K) reports that Paul Reed, a Chaco scholar and a preservation archaeologist with Tucson-based Archaeology Southwest, said the group was spurred into greater action by BLM's efforts to update a 12-year-old plan that manages oil and gas activity in the region. The Journal points out that "one of the group's initiatives is to support and emulate the BLM's Master Leasing Plan approach to negotiating how to balance the divergent interests between the oil and gas industry and Chaco conservationists, and avoid costly lawsuits."

FORBES: WEALTHY ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE TARGETING FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY. In a [Washington Times](#) (12/4, 283K) op-ed, Steve Forbes, chairman and editor in chief of Forbes Media, argues that wealthy "radical environmentalists" like such as Tom Steyer and others are "targeting our traditional energy producers and our manufacturing base while supporting a 'green energy' agenda that cannot survive in a free market without huge government subsidies." For many of them, Forbes writes, the agenda "is to target and eventually take down our fossil fuel industry," which, he argues is "simply a recipe for disaster." Forbes says the "Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, and others," have advanced "a plague of new environmental regulations governing carbon, methane and ozone emissions that will require oil, natural gas and coal producers to pay costly fines or shut down." Forbes calls on the "liberal billionaire's club to stop attacking our energy producers and work with Congress and the White House to develop sensible energy policies that don't shackle our dependable energy resources."

SPECTRUM LNG, SALIX REMAIN IN RUNNING FOR INTERIOR ALASKA LNG PROJECT. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/3, DeMarban, 203K) reported that out of an original 13 contenders, only Spectrum LNG and

Salix Inc. now remain in the running in Alaska's "search for a partner to help lower energy prices in the Interior with deliveries of liquefied natural gas." The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is expected to make a final selected in early 2016. Both finalists "would use state funding and their own capital to pay for the project, according to a summary provided by AIDEA."

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO LIFT BAN ON OIL EXPORTS, EXPEDITE LNG PERMITTING PROCESS.

[Reuters](#) (12/4, Gardner) reports the House on Thursday passed the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act on a 249-174 vote. The bill would repeal the ban on exports of crude oil, as well as speeding the permitting process for liquefied natural gas export facilities.

[The Hill](#) (12/3, Henry, 654K) reported the bill was approved despite "a veto threat from President Obama." It includes "provisions to speed up the permitting process for pipelines and energy projects," and "to expand liquefied natural gas exports and hydropower," as well as measures to increase "energy efficiency and maintain security and reliability of the electricity grid." Democrats accused Republicans of having "packed the final version with too many provisions they couldn't support."

The [AP](#) (12/4, Daly) reports that Democrats have criticized the bill, which is the "first major energy legislation in nearly a decade," as "'backward-looking,' saying it promotes fossil fuels such as oil and gas while doing nothing to support renewable forms of energy such as solar and wind power." However, 26 Democrats did join with Republicans to approve the bill, the [National Journal](#) (12/4, Geman, Subscription Publication, 53K) reports. An Senate Democratic leadership aide said that it would take "something big" for Democrats to agree to a lifting of the ban, such as long-term extensions of credit for developing renewable energy projects.

GOP Prioritizes Lifting Oil Export Ban In Year-End Negotiations. [Politico](#) (12/4, Schor, Everett, 1.19M) reports Democrats "seem serious about striking a bargain on lifting oil exports" – one of the GOP's key priorities in year-end negotiations – "despite pressure from greens and resistance from the White House." Politico explains that the House energy reform legislation passed on Thursday is separate from the year-end budgets, and "faces a certain presidential veto as a standalone measure." However, skepticism remains over whether the GOP is willing to shut down the government if Democrats don't acquiesce to Republican demands. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), the Energy Committee's top Democrat, lamented, "People are wanting to hold the whole budget process hostage on oil exports."

Senate Energy Committee Chair Anticipates Bipartisan Agreement On Reform Bill. [The Hill](#) (12/4, Henry, 654K) reports that Sen. Energy Committee panel chair Lisa Murkowski stated that she anticipates reconciling her bipartisan energy policy overhaul package with Rep. Fred Upton's reform bill that the House passed on Tuesday. Murkowski said that her bill, which the Senate will address in 2016, "has been a good coming together," but that "there is room to meld" her package with the House version.

VIRGINIA GROUPS URGING OFFICIALS TO HALT NEW FRACKING OPERATIONS. The [AP](#) (12/4) reports that several environmental groups are "urging officials to halt any new fracking efforts in Virginia," claiming that the state's safeguards on fracking "are inadequate and outdated."

MOVEMENT PUSHING BANKS TO QUIT COAL SEES RESULTS. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/3, Faux, 3.4M) reported that a movement pushing banks to dump coal is "getting results," despite the small size of some of its protests. Banks including Morgan Stanley and Bank of America have been the target of activists and subsequently announced cuts to their ties with coal companies. Ben Collins with Rainforest Action Network said, "New coal mines and new coal-fired power plants can't be built without the behind-the-scenes support of major financial institutions. ... They're aware that they're exposed reputationally on this issue." Other banks announcing plans to reduce coal lending this year include Citigroup, Wells Fargo, ING Group, and the French banks Crédit Agricole, Société Générale, and BNP Paribas.

Report: Thermal Coal Oversupply To Reach 118 Million Metric Tons. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/3, Parker, 3.4M) reported that the seaborne coal market is facing its "biggest glut in at least four years." A Bloomberg Intelligence report, published on Thursday, showed that with demand for carbon-intensive fuels falling in some Asian and European areas, the oversupply of thermal coal will hit 118 million metric tons, nearly triple 2013 numbers. The report also found that China and India may also import less coal, increasing their reliance on domestic supplies instead.

Offshore Energy Development:

DOJ DROPS MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES AGAINST BP DEEPWATER HORIZON SUPERVISORS. [RT](#) (12/4, 297K) reports that manslaughter charges were dropped against two BP supervisors who were onboard the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico. One supervisor pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Water Act and “admitted to negligently causing the massive oil spill that resulted from the disaster,” according to Justice Department spokesman Peter Carr. The other supervisor is fighting the same misdemeanor charge, which “will likely result in 10 months of probation and 100 hours of community service.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

DEMOCRATS SUPPORT DESIGNATING ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AS WILDERNESS. [E&E Daily](#) (12/3, Hiar, Subscription Publication) reports that a bill seeking “to formally designate the oil-rich coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness” has been co-sponsored by nearly three-fourths of the Senate Democratic caucus. While the 1.56-million-acre area “is believed to contain over 10 billion barrels of oil,” it also supports more than 250 species. The “long-shot” legislation would effectively ban “oil and gas development, new road construction and other activities.”

STUDY EXAMINES CONNECTION BETWEEN CATTLE GRAZING, SAGE GROUSE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (12/4, Barnhill) reports that University of Idaho professor Karen Launchbaugh is “two years into a 10-year study that’s trying to figure out how grazing of perennial grasses affects spring nesting for sage grouse.” BLM explains that “by the end of the study, she hopes to have results that can help create a sustainable way to keep cattle on the land, while also protecting the sage grouse.” Launchbaugh recently briefed the Idaho Cattle Association, which is helping pay for the study, on her work.

BALD EAGLE COUNT INCREASES AT LAKE COEUR D’ALENE. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (12/3, Landers, 174K) reports that “bald eagles continue to pour into the Wolf Lodge Bay area of Lake Coeur d’Alene for their annual November-January gathering to feast on spawning kokanee.” According to Carrie Hugo, BLM wildlife biologist, who conducts a weekly eagle survey during the kokanee spawning period, “There were 69 adult eagles (white heads) and 10 juveniles. Last year there were 34 eagles on the Week 3 count.”

BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON SAGE GROUSE PROTECTIONS. The [AP](#) (12/3, Ridler) reports that BLM has extended the public comment period until January 15 “on the agency’s plan to withdraw 10 million acres of public lands in six western states from potential mineral extraction to protect habitat for the greater sage grouse.” The AP says that public meetings scheduled in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming in December “ahead of creating an Environmental Impact Statement before making a final decision on whether to withdraw the public lands for 20 years.” BLM spokesman Mark Mackiewicz said, “We really want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to comment on the proposed withdrawal.” Meanwhile, “Jack Lyman of the Idaho Mining Association said banning mining on 3 million acres in Idaho would limit future mineral extraction” while “John Robison of the Idaho Conservation League said withdrawing the lands is a good step.”

BLM MOAB FIELD OFFICE MOVES GROUP CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS ONLINE. [Lake Powell Life](#) (12/4, Kellar) reports that BLM “Utah Moab Field Office is moving group campsite reservations to Recreation.gov.” The report explains that “visitors who wish to make group site reservations will be able to do so online at [recreation.gov](#) starting at 8 a.m. MST on Dec. 9, 2015.” Meanwhile, “the more than 400 individual campsites in the Moab Field Office will remain available on a first-come, first-served basis.”

INTEREST HIGH IN MONTANA ELK SHOULDER SEASON HUNTS. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/3, 76K) reports that “right now, it seems every elk hunter in Montana and beyond who did not get his or her elk in the general season that ended Nov. 29 has focused on four hunting districts between Great Falls and White Sulphur Springs that are taking part in the new elk shoulder season.” Gary Bertellotti, FWS Region Four supervisor, says that their phone lines have jammed up by hunters. The Tribune explains that “a pilot program, the shoulder season for antlerless elk runs Nov. 30 through Feb. 15 in hunting districts 445, 446, 452 and 449” and a “similar antlerless elk season in HD 410 is Jan. 1 to Feb. 15.” The Tribune says that hunting is allowed only on private land, BLM land, and state of Montana school trust land.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVISTS CLAIM FOSSIL FUEL DRILLING AGREEMENTS, LAND AUCTIONS WORSEN CLIMATE. [TIME](#) (12/4, Worland, 19.1M) reported that climate advocacy group [350.org](#) Jason Kowalski stated that “it’s wrong” for the US to sell fossil fuels. Kowalski also said that President Obama’s recommendation to “keep some fossil fuels in the ground rather than burn them” will not end global warming

unless "30, 50 year decisions to allow drilling" are also terminated. TIME reported that Obama "has maintained consistent support for continued reliance on fossil fuels," and that he is unlikely to make "a dramatic shift" that would mandate the termination of Bureau of Land Management land auctions.

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO EXPEDITE ENERGY PROJECTS. [Politico Pro](#) (Goode, 12/3) reports the US House voted 255 to 168 to approve an amendment to a HR 8, an energy bill that "authorize[s] oil exports and speed permit reviews for cross-boundary energy projects similar to the Keystone XL pipeline." An amendment was also approved to expedite "cross-boundary oil, natural gas and electricity projects." However, the lawmakers voted against an amendment to block "the repeal of a requirement for new and modified federal buildings to be designed to be free of fossil fuels by 2030," and another Democratic amendment to "requir[e] the Interior Department to tell landowners when federally owned minerals beneath their land have been leased for oil and gas development."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WOLF COUNT IN YELLOWSTONE UP SLIGHTLY IN 2014. The AP (12/4) reports that on Wednesday figures were released showing Yellowstone National Park supported "at least 104 wolves from 11 packs living in the park at the end of 2014," up from 95 wolves from 10 packs counted in the end of 2013. The AP notes that the wolves' "numbers peaked about a decade ago and have since declined in part because their prey base has dwindled."

This story is also carried in the [New York Times](#) (12/4, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/4, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/4, 2.15M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (12/4, 1.18M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M).

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/4, Milman, 3.48M) provides background on the presence of wolves in the park, describing how "Gray wolves had been completely wiped out in the vast national park in 1926, leading to a range of negative ecological changes that their reintroduction helped correct." Following the recovery of the species, the article reports that Republican-sponsored legislation would delist the wolves from the Endangered Species Act, and would prohibit "courts from overruling the Department of Interior" on the matter. The Guardian cites opposition to delisting from the Center for Biological Diversity.

NOAA EXECUTIVE MOVES TO NFWF. [Greenwire](#) (12/3, Yehle, Subscription Publication) reports National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) acting assistant secretary for conservation and management Holly Bamford has taken a newly created position as the chief conservation officer of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Bamford is known for her creation of the Marine Debris Program, the Office for Coastal Management, and the agency's recent focus on ecological forests.

HARTL: REPUBLICANS USING RIDERS TO ATTACK ENDANGERED SPECIES. Brett Hartl, Endangered Species Policy director at the Center for Biological Diversity, writes at [The Hill](#) (12/4, Hartl, 654K) in its "Congress Blog" that "just in time for holidays, Congressional Republicans, rankled by the fact that endangered species protection decisions are by law based on science rather than politics, are trying to slip a legislative noose around some of the nation's most needy species." He explains that Republicans are using special "policy riders" attached to spending bills that would reduce or completely disallow Endangered Species Act protections for species such as gray wolves, sage grouse, and lesser prairie chickens. He points out that "according to a recent study, these legislative attacks on the law and specific imperiled species have jumped by more than 600 percent in recent years, with more than 80 such anti-endangered species laws and amendments proposed just this year."

ANACONDA FOUND IN BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA. The [Daytona Beach \(FL\) News-Journal](#) (12/3, Voyles, 162K) reports that that a 9-foot-5-inch green anaconda was found and killed after being found Monday off State Road 50 in Brevard County. The News-Journal says that the snake was only 33 points but is capable of reaching up to 500 pounds and 26 feet, according to the US Geological Survey. The News-Journal points out that "Burmese pythons — which can reach lengths up to 18 feet — are found throughout Everglades National Park and in Big Cypress National Preserve and Collier-Seminole State Park." Federal studies have shown the pythons could be "extremely detrimental to native species because they eat almost every type of land-dwelling vertebrate and have few, if any, natural predators." In addition, the FWS "added the green anaconda and three other species to its list of 'injurious species' in March, prohibiting importation and interstate transportation of the species without a federal permit."

FEDERAL WILDLIFE OFFICER IN MINNESOTA PROFILED. Tori J. McCormick writes at the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (12/4, McCormick, 1.15M) about Scott Pariseau, one of 10 Federal wildlife officers with the FWS stationed throughout Minnesota. McCormick explains that his primary office is the 14,000-acre Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and his enforcement area includes the surrounding 14-county Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District. She says that “the reach of his work, in physical space and responsibility, defines the everyday life of a wildlife officer: broad areas to monitor and control that extend beyond the boundaries of wildlife enforcement, mixed with an often deep personal connection to the line of work.” McCormick follows Pariseau as he goes about his duties.

FWS CRITICIZED FOR OFFERING EAGLE TAKE PERMITS TO WIND ENERGY COMPANIES.

HEADLINE: COURT CANCELS 30-YEAR FEDERAL PERMITS LETTING WIND COMPANIES KILL

EAGLES. A report in [Mongabay](#) (12/4, DiGirolamo, 6K) criticizes the FWS for exempting wind energy companies from laws making it illegal to kill Bald and Golden Eagles, citing the FWS’ efforts to change the duration of eagle take permits from 5-years to 30-years. Conceding the benefits of wind energy, the report suggests exploration of bladeless wind technology as a possible solution.

FISHERS REINTRODUCED TO CASCADES IN WASHINGTON STATE. The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (12/4, Mayor, 254K) reports that “the seven newest residents of Gifford Pinchot National Forest darted into the rain-soaked, fern-covered forest Thursday morning, the first of multiple releases to reintroduce the fisher to the South Cascades.” The Tribune explains that “the release is part of a multiagency effort to reintroduce the fisher —members of the weasel family, related to otters, badgers and wolverines —in Washington.” The tribune says that each animal was implanted with a radio transmitter that that “researchers have already discovered the animals have a larger home range in Washington, as much as eight times larger than fishers in California,” said Zach Radmer of the FWS.

The [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (12/4, Mayor, 78K) also carries the report from the News Tribune.

FWS SAYS BLACK-FOOTED FERRET RESTORATION EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL SO FAR. [KUSA-TV](#)

Denver (12/3, Leary, 559K) reports online that the FWS says “their efforts to restore the most endangered mammal in North America are, so far, successful.” KUSA points out that “30 black-footed ferrets were released onto the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in northeast Denver on Oct. 5.” FWS officials surveyed the area recently. “I was just happy to see one animal in the wild, that was pretty amazing. But from what I’m told, 30 percent or greater of what was released is a success,” David Lucas, with the FWS, said. “I think what’s exciting is, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is hoping to recover this species. And I think we’re really making great strides toward doing that.”

NEVADA MINING ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DEFENDS MULTIPLE USE OF PUBLIC LANDS. Dana R. Bennett, Nevada Mining Association President, writes at the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/2, Bennett, 22K) that FWS’s decision not to place the Greater Sage-grouse on the endangered species list “not to list the grouse is a positive first step,” but she says that “additional measures that were taken to immediately segregate and even potentially withdraw huge swaths of Nevada land demonstrate that much work remains to be done.” She says that “the implementation of the land use management plan, especially as it relates to withdrawal areas, disturbance caps, and travel restrictions, will require thoughtful and productive discussions.” Bennett concludes that “it is vitally important to Nevada’s future and to the mining industry...that we protect the future of high-tech manufacturing by ensuring that any future management plans continue this country’s tradition of multiple uses on public lands.”

National Park Service:

FORT UNION TRADING POST SOLICITING COMMENTS ON HOUSING PLAN. The [AP](#) (12/4) reports that the NPS is soliciting public comment on “a critical shortage of employee housing for the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site.” The AP explains that “the Expanded Park Housing/Utilities Plan and Environmental Assessment aims to address the shortage, increase the housing capacity of the park to an adequate number of bedrooms and upgrade the existing wastewater treatment system.” Park superintendent Andy Banta “says the plan analyzes two action alternatives that focus on the immediate need for housing park employees.”

PARK OFFICIALS TOUR NORTH FIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. [Marianas Variety](#) (12/4, Zotomayor) reports that National Historic Landmarks Program acting branch chief Elaine Jackson-Retondo and Park Superintendent for Guam and the CNMI James Richardson are visiting Saipan and Tinian to tour the North Field National Historic Landmark. The article notes Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s signing of the memorandum

of agreement establishing the Manhattan Project National Historic Park last month. The article features excitement for the presence of the high-ranking US officials in the Mariana Islands.

HOUSE HEARS TESTIMONY ON NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL LEGISLATION. [National Parks Traveler](#) (12/4, Repanshek, 989) reports that that “the bottom-line message delivered during Wednesday’s hearing before the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Committee on Natural Resources was that the Park Service is falling behind in maintaining the parks and their resources because it isn’t adequately funded.” Park Service Director Jon Jarvis said, “The National Park Service Centennial is focused on connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. To that end, Congress must increase funding – including mandatory appropriations – to improve park infrastructure and to help develop the next generation of park stewards.” The report points out that the subcommittee is considering two proposals for the Park Service centennial: one was the Obama Administration’s proposal that was introduced by Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), the other a draft “discussion bill” by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT).

OLDEST FULL-TIME PARK RANGER TO LIGHT NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (12/4, Vasquez, Fernandez, 276K) reports online that Betty Reid Soskin, the oldest National Park Service Ranger in the United States, will light the national Christmas tree and introduce President Obama on Thursday. WRC says that “Soskin received her invitation last month while working at her full-time job, giving tours at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California.” She said the honor was “the greatest! Unquestionably. Nothing else tops this.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS REPORTS MAGNITUDE 3.4 EARTHQUAKE NEAR FORT BRAGG. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Quakebot, 3.6M) reports that on Thursday morning the USGS reported a magnitude 3.4 earthquake nine miles away from Fort Bragg in California. The article notes there has been no quake activity of magnitude 3.0 or greater centered nearby in the past ten days.

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING POSSIBLY “TERRORIST-RELATED.” As more information became known Thursday about San Bernardino shooters Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, President Obama said their attack may have been an act of terrorism, but that not enough was yet known to make that conclusion. The FBI said it is investigating the attack as potential terrorism, but also said the motive remains unknown. The President renewed his call for gun control, but the message was ignored on Capitol Hill, where two measures introduced in the Senate were voted down.

[USA Today](#) (12/4, Korte, 5.56M) reports that the President, with Vice President Biden by his side in the Oval Office, “sought to assure Americans that investigators will get to the bottom of the San Bernardino shootings, even as he noted that investigators know little about what motivated the shooting spree.” [Reuters](#) (12/4, Edwards) quotes Obama saying, “It is possible that this was terrorist-related. But we don’t know. It is also possible that this was workplace-related.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Nakamura, 7.78M) reports Obama “also called on the nation to do some collective soul-searching, making an oblique reference to a push for stricter gun-control laws that his administration has championed, unsuccessfully” since the Sandy Hook shootings three years ago this month. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Parsons, 3.6M) says the President “was sober and serious, with bloodshot eyes, as he spoke. For days he had been dreading” the upcoming Sandy Hook anniversary, and now, “aides say he is more intent than ever in conversations with national security advisors and domestic policy advisers as they look for steps the administration can take to combat gun violence.”

[McClatchy](#) (12/4, Kumar, 27K) reports the President said “all Americans, including legislators, needed to figure out how to make it more difficult for some to get access to weapons.” [Roll Call](#) (12/3, Bennett, 139K) reports that Obama “said it is ‘just too easy’ for people who wish to carry out mass shootings to obtain firearms.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Boyer, 283K) reports that Attorney General Lynch and FBI Director Comey, who briefed the President before he delivered his remarks, were also on hand. [Politico](#) (12/3, Gass, 1.19M) and [The Hill](#) (12/3, Fabian, 654K) also report on the President’s remarks. [Reuters](#) (12/4, Heavey) reports San Bernardino Mayor Carey Davis said via Twitter that he has spoken with Obama, [writing](#), “Thank you for the outpouring of support from around the world and @POTUS for the heartfelt conversation.”

Colby Itkowitz writes in a [Washington Post](#) (12/3, 7.78M) blog post that after the October mass shooting in Oregon, Obama "made an all-too-frequent address to the nation condemning the murderous act. But this time, he also decried the monotony of the reaction to it." Itkowitz writes that "the more exposure a person has to an event, the less remarkable it becomes. That's true for the good and the bad. ... Another term for it is desensitization."

In the wake of the latest mass shooting, the White House and congressional Democrats are again calling for tighter gun control, while Republicans are resisting. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Parsons, 3.6M) reports that the Administration is "seeking a way to use executive authority to close the so-called gun show loophole" that permits gun purchases without a background check, "but complicated legal issues have slowed the process." While closing the loophole would not have impacted the San Bernardino incident, "White House officials and their allies continue to see expanding the background check system as the most promising avenue to reduce at least some of the deaths caused by guns."

[Politico](#) (12/3, Everett, Kim, 1.19M) reports that Senate Democrats forced votes on two gun control measures Thursday, but both failed. The first, on legislation "that would deny people on a federal terrorism watch list the ability to purchase guns," was [defeated 45-54](#), while the second, a revival of bipartisan legislation written in the aftermath of Sandy Hook, [failed 48-50](#). The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Sullivan, Weigel, 7.78M) says the votes "failed amid opposition from the National Rifle Association and Republicans."

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says in an editorial that Republicans and GOP presidential candidates have recently "been trying to outdo each other in describing how they'd crack down on global terrorism. But when a mass shooting at home calls attention to laws that put guns into the hands of suspected terrorists, they ask for a moment of silence, while taking action that speaks volumes."

[USA Today](#) (12/4, Slack, Singer, 5.56M) reports House Republicans said Thursday "that they will not be moving quickly to bring up new gun control legislation." House Speaker Ryan said there are "still too many unknowns about the San Bernardino shootings, but he said one common theme among many mass shootings is mental illness." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says Republicans said their legislation would focus on reforming the mental health system. [Politico](#) (12/3, Sherman, 1.19M) writes, "The reality is quite plain on Capitol Hill: There's still no appetite among Republicans for new gun laws."

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says "mass shootings from California to Paris stoked fierce debate Thursday between Republicans who maintained that the killings must intensify the focus of Congress and the nation on Islamist terrorism and Democrats who demanded an end to 'thoughts and prayers' for victims" and immediate gun control.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) editorializes, "Yes, the nation needs to pursue Islamist terrorists overseas more aggressively and combat radicalization at home. Yes, we need to offer better mental-health treatment. But we also need to make it more difficult for civilians to obtain weapons of war." However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says in an editorial that the focus must be on radicalization and that if Democrats are serious about gun control, they should seek an outright weapons ban, rather than exploiting each incident for political gain.

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) column, "Was the San Bernardino shooting an act of terrorism or workplace rage? It doesn't really matter, in terms of the need for better regulation of assault rifles and semiautomatic weapons." Eugene Robinson similarly writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) column, "The common denominator in mass shootings is the use of firearms. Variables such as political ideology, religious fervor and mental illness are motivating factors, but death comes from the gun."

FBI Investigating Shootings As Potential Terrorism. The three broadcast networks each devoted between 17 and 19 minutes to the shootings on Thursday evening, but apart from items on ABC and CBS about comments by presidential candidates, the reports did not deal with possible policy ramifications and instead focused on the ongoing investigation and emerging information about shooters Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik. [ABC World News](#) (12/3, lead story, 3:35, Muir, 5.84M) opened by saying that "a chilling portrait is now emerging of that young couple, dressed in tactical gear, who killed so many." Farook "was born here, a US citizen," while his wife, "originally from Pakistan, [was] here on a K1 visa, a fiancé's visa." ABC's Brian Ross said the FBI is treating the investigation "as a case of terrorism. Behind the doors of the young couple's San Bernardino home, police say they found an arsenal of weapons that could have been used to kill thousands of people."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/3, lead story, 4:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "It's hard to imagine the massacre in San Bernardino could have been worse," but police said Thursday "that the husband and wife murder team brought [a] bomb to that social services building. It was rigged to a remote control toy car to act as a wireless trigger." They also found a "bag of pipe bombs in the suspects' home, and a stockpile of ammunition." [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/3, lead story, 3:40, Holt, 7.86M) reported that "what was revealed [on Thursday] seems to make it much more likely that attack was an act of terrorism. In great and stunning detail, police describe a picture of a heavily armed group of attackers, two of them backed up by an arsenal of pipe bombs and thousands of rounds of ammo, fully capable of launching a follow-on attack."

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Medina, Pérez-Peña, Schmidt, Goodstein, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports the FBI "is treating the shooting as a potential terrorist act, though they are far from concluding that it was," two law enforcement officials said. But while "the suspects' extensive arsenal, their recent Middle East travels and evidence that one had been in touch with people with Islamist extremist views, both in the United States and abroad, all contributed to the decision to refocus the investigation," officials "emphasized that they were unclear what set off the attack, and said they were not ready to call it terrorism." The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Groves, 7.78M) reports officials said they "were looking at social media contacts between one of the suspected attackers and people with ties to terrorism, but said they had not found anything recent or significant so far."

Joel Achenbach of the [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) writes, "Without a firmly established motive, no one Thursday quite knew how to categorize the San Bernardino massacre. Terrorism? Workplace violence? A hybrid of the two?" If it was terrorism, "why target co-workers at an obscure holiday party in a small city that many Americans can't even find on a map?" And "if workplace violence, why the enormous arsenal of bullets and the dozen pipe bombs in the rented home?" [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/3, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) showed Attorney General Lynch saying, "We don't know whether this is workplace rage or something larger, or a combination of both."

Clinton, Cruz, Graham, Trump Say Shootings Were Terrorism. Presidential candidates weighed in on the shootings Thursday. [ABC World News](#) (12/3, story 6, 1:40, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Sen. Ted Cruz was "the first to say this is radical Islamic terrorism," with Donald Trump soon joining him. Trump: "We've got a lot of bad things going on. Radical Islamic terrorism. Take a look. I mean, you look at the names, you look at what's happened. ... I think it was terrorism." ABC (Llamas): "For Hillary Clinton, this tragedy underscores the problem of gun violence. ... But in New Hampshire tonight, she believes this is terror, too." Clinton: "It's becoming clearer that we are dealing with an act of terrorism." Llamas: "Some Republicans are reserving judgment on a motive, both Sen. Rubio and Jeb Bush [are] waiting on more information to come out."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/3, story 6, 1:55, Holt, 7.86M) reported the shootings have created "a political firestorm...reigniting a polarized and angry back and forth over guns, religion, and terrorism." NBC's Andrea Mitchell reported that Trump "slammed the President with innuendos." Trump: "Radical Islamic terrorism and, I'll tell you what, we have a president that refuses to use the term. He refuses to say it. There's something going on with him that we don't know about." Mitchell said Trump also "bragged all this is helping him." Trump: "Every single time there's a tragedy, my poll numbers go up."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Weigel, 7.78M) reports Cruz told the Republican Jewish Coalition, "At this point, the details of what happened in San Bernardino are still unclear. But our prayers are with the families of those who were murdered and those who were shot. And all of us are deeply concerned that this is yet another manifestation of terrorism, radical Islamic terrorism here at home. Coming on the wake of a terror attack in Paris, this horrific murder underscores that we are in a time of war."

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Clinton, in New Hampshire, "called for gun control measures and reiterated President Obama's statement that terrorism had not been ruled out as a motive." Clinton said, "This terrible shooting in California, I want people to feel safe. If you go to the store, or you go to work, you go to the movies, you go to church, you take your kid to school – you should be safe." The [AP](#) (12/4, Ramer) and [Politico](#) (12/3, Collins, 1.19M) also cover Clinton's remarks.

[Roll Call](#) (12/3, Lesniewski, 139K) reports that another candidate, Sen. Lindsey Graham, said "the way to prevent more mass shootings like the one in San Bernardino...is to 'make ISIL the losers they are.'" Graham said, "The President declared this another example of a lack of gun control. I think the most logical connection here is probably a combination of people with a grudge, but with an agenda. ... The way to prevent this is you make ISIL the losers they are, that you take them down in their backyard so they don't fight you in your backyard."

In a [New York Times](#) (12/4, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) op-ed, Naval Reserve officer Haider Ali Hussein Mullick, who teaches graduate seminars on combating terrorism at the Naval War College, writes that he is “an American Muslim” who has spent his “adult life teaching and advising senior military leaders in the fight against terror. ... I know from my own experience that more Islamophobia would be the worst outcome for American efforts to defeat the Islamic State.”

Early Information Paints Farook And Malik As Unlikely Assailants. On [ABC World News](#) (12/3, story 5, 0:55, Muir, 5.84M), Pierre Thomas reported, “So far, it does not appear that Farook or his wife were actively being investigated by the FBI before the shooting.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/3, story 2, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Jan Crawford reported, “Farook, a US citizen, born in Chicago to Pakistani immigrants, graduated from California State San Bernardino in 2010. He went to work for the local health department, and then turned to online dating sites in search of a wife. He found Tashfeen Malik. They met and became engaged in 2013 when Farook made a trip to Saudi Arabia during the annual Muslim pilgrimage known as the Hajj. Farook returned to Saudi Arabia in July 2014 to bring her to the US, and earlier this year, the couple had a baby.”

The [AP](#) (12/4, Myers, Pritchard) reports the two “fired as many as 75 rifle rounds in the assault, left behind three rigged-together pipe bombs with a remote-control device that apparently malfunctioned, and had over 1,600 more bullets with them when they were gunned down in their SUV.” At their home, “they had 12 pipe bombs, tools for making more such explosives, and over 3,000 more rounds of ammunition.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Horwitz, 7.78M) reports the guns they used “were all purchased legally from federally licensed firearms dealers, according to federal law enforcement officials.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Queally, Parvini, Serrano, Zarembo, 3.6M) says “the arsenal suggested a level of planning that added to investigators’ concern that Wednesday’s shootings...were far more than a spontaneous response to a workplace dispute.”

[USA Today](#) (12/4, Woodyard, Heath, 5.56M) says that “on the surface, Farook and Malik lived the American dream, the kind of life that be would the envy of many. He had a solid job for a government agency,” the family “had a neat house in nearly Redlands. And, of course, there was their darling baby.” The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Turkewitz, Mueller, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) writes that “to some, they appeared steeped in the usual routines of work and parenthood. For instance, they had registered online for gifts for their newborn, including a car seat and diapers.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Gibbons-Neff, Brittain, Fisher, 7.78M) says Farook “seemed happy, quiet and devoutly religious both before and after his journey to Saudi Arabia last year.” After he returned, his coworkers saw he “was growing a long beard and, after a long search for love, he had a wife, someone he had met online and brought back to California from Saudi Arabia.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, A1, Audi, Jordan, Elinson, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that those who knew them were shocked by their actions, and the director of the Islamic Center where Farook once worshiped said Farook never expressed outrage or extremist views. But the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Hamilton, 3.6M) says he “endured a turbulent home life,” with court records on his parents’ divorce indicating that his father “was physically and verbally abusive and was ‘negligent and an alcoholic.’”

As for Malik, on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/3, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Norah O’Donnell called her “the most unlikely accomplice: a 27-year-old mother with an infant at home.” [USA Today](#) (12/4, Dorell, 5.56M) reports that Malik “met her American-born husband online and married him after moving from Saudi Arabia to join him” in the US. Little “is known about Malik, but the process she used to enter the country was probably the quickest way to gain an extended-stay US visa,” according to immigration attorney Kamal Nawash. The [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Noble, 283K) also reports that Malik “was in the US on a K1 (fiancee) visa and held a Pakistani passport.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/3, Paquette, 7.78M) writes in its “Wonkblog” that “little research has been conducted on women who commit mass shootings. ... Before Malik, Amanda Miller was the last women to fire into crowds with a romantic partner on US soil.” In June 2014, Miller and her husband, “both anti-government extremists, killed two police officers in a Las Vegas restaurant and then a man who tried to stop them in a Walmart.”

[USA Today](#) (12/4, 5.56M) says in an editorial that “though the number of shooters – including one male and one female who were killed by police – didn’t fit the usual pattern, there was otherwise an alarming sameness to the news out of California. People who had survived by hiding under desks and behind locked doors talked about falling back on their ‘active shooter’ training, as if that’s the new normal in US workplaces.”

Criminologist and regular contributor James Alan Fox writes in [USA Today](#) (12/4, 5.56M) that “when couples kill – be it a married couple (as appears to be the case in the latest bloodbath), brothers (as in the Boston Marathon

bombing), pseudo father and son (as in the DC sniper murders), the presence of a close confidant, rather than the absence, is enabling, so long as the other participant is of like-minded perspective.”

Obama Remembers San Bernardino Victims At National Tree Lighting. [Reuters](#) (12/4, Wise) reports that President Obama and his family led the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on Thursday in a celebration featuring performances by pop singer Aloe Blacc and rock band Fall Out Boy. Obama used the ceremony to remember the San Bernardino shooting victims and their families, saying, “Their loss is our loss, too, for we’re all one American family. We look out for each other in good times, and in bad. And they should know that all of us care about them this holiday season.”

Comey Says FBI Concerned With “Troubled Souls” Who Might Be Drawn To ISIL. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/3, story 7, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) reported, “The attack in San Bernardino underscores a very big challenge facing US intelligence and law enforcement agencies: trying to find potential extremists here at home – American citizens who may become radicalized through the Internet, flying quietly under the radar while plotting to launch an attack.” NBC’s Tom Costello reported that the FBI is “tracking 900 potential suspects, 50 considered a top concern.” FBI Director Comey: “The threat here focuses primary on troubled souls in America being inspired or enabled online to do something violent for ISIL.”

Americans Increasingly Afraid Of Attacks. The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Kleinfield, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that “America’s populace finds itself engulfed in a collective fear,” though it says that some are “inured and resigned,” while others experience “bewilderment. And anger.” The story is based on comments solicited online by the Times as well as interviews the paper conducted “around the country.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that an FBI official on Wednesday, asked “Is this a terrorist incident?” answered, “We do not know.” The story raises the question of when mass shootings amount to terrorism.

WPost Wonkblog: Fewer Americans Dying Of Gun Violence Overall. Max Ehrenfreund writes in the [Washington Post](#) (12/3, 7.78M) “Wonkblog” that “premeditated mass shootings in public places are happening more often,” but “in general...fewer Americans are dying as a result of gun violence – a shift that began about two decades ago.” Researchers “have identified several reasons for the shift,” including “more police officers on the beat,” police use of computers to effectively direct efforts, the “gradual decline in the amount of alcohol that Americans drink,” less childhood exposure to lead that “has been shown to make humans more aggressive,” and the improving economy.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/3, Jonsson, 496K) also writes that “overall gun violence has declined, along with violent crime, over the past two decades. But the frequency with which mass shootings have been reported this year have led to perceptions that this one, particularly shocking, type of violence may be experiencing a surge.”

Muslims See Increase In Anti-Muslim Sentiment. The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/3, story 6, 0:35, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that “Muslims were quick to denounce the massacre,” showing Hussam Ayloush, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, saying, “As soon as we learned that the suspect might be of Muslim background, we started witnessing a lot of the anti-Muslim sentiment and rhetoric on social media and emails, threats. We felt it was important for our fellow Americans to know where we stand. That we stand together in condemning unequivocally such behavior.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Sullivan, Izadi, Bailey, 7.78M) reports that in the aftermath of “Wednesday’s massacre,” Muslims in the US “say they are living through an intensely painful moment and feel growing anti-Muslim sentiment.” The story, citing “many Muslims,” says that “fear of Islam is being fueled by the heated rhetoric of Republican presidential candidates, particularly businessman Donald Trump.” It also quotes one Muslim saying, “Islamophobia is the accepted form of racism in America.” The Post also says that “anti-Muslim violence in the United States has jumped since the Paris attacks.”

WHITE HOUSE SAYS OBAMA WON’T SUPPORT SPENDING BILL WITH RIDERS. The White House on Thursday said the President is “not going to go along” with a GOP-supported measure containing riders for special interests, [Reuters](#) (12/4, Edwards) reports.

Democrats Deliver Counter-Proposal For Spending Bill. Meanwhile, a separate [Reuters](#) (12/4, Comwell, Heavey) story reports House Minority Leader Pelosi said Thursday that Democrats have provided Republicans with their counter-proposal for the spending legislation. Speaking to reporters, Pelosi said, “I’m hopeful and look

forward to receiving their counter," adding, "Time is running out." [Politico](#) (12/3, French, 1.19M) says that Pelosi said "the first Republican funding proposal offered by GOP leaders earlier this week was a 'tea party wish list' that starkly departs from what members of the negotiating team...agreed on."

Pelosi Says Republicans Have Removed Planned Parenthood Language From Bill. The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Debonis, 7.78M) reports that the Republican effort to defund Planned Parenthood "appears to have been abandoned in the latest round of congressional spending negotiations." Pelosi said that Republicans "had purposefully taken the Planned Parenthood language out" of their latest proposal, adding, "I think they know it was a loser."

Ryan Sees Shutdown As Unlikely. In an appearance on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Thursday, House Speaker Ryan said a government shut down is unlikely, [Reuters](#) (12/4, Heavey) reports. Ryan said, "I have no reason to believe that we'll have a government shutdown. ... The Appropriations Committee, they're working day and night negotiating a government funding bill. Those negotiations are ongoing right now."

House Conservatives Push For Provision On Refugees. [Reuters](#) (12/4, Lawder) reports House conservatives on Thursday sought to attach language to make it more difficult for refugees from Syria and Iraq to enter the US. House Republicans said after a closed-door meeting Thursday that there is strong support for a proposal to prevent refugees from entering the country unless government officials certify they do not pose a threat to security.

Congress Passes Five-Year Transportation Bill. Congress has approved a five-year, \$305 billion transportation bill. The measure, which cleared the House and Senate on Thursday, has been sent to the President for his signature. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, A4, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) cites the measure as a rare example of bipartisan cooperation, and the [AP](#) (12/4, Lowy) says the bill, which "boosts highway and transit spending and assures states that federal help will be available for major projects," is "laden with enough industry favors, parochial projects, safety improvements and union demands to gain overwhelming support." The [AP](#) says Republicans "can point to the bill's passage as evidence of their ability to govern," while the President "can claim progress on addressing the nation's aging and congested infrastructure, a major goal since the early days of his administration." In a story posted before the Senate voted on the measure, [Reuters](#) (12/4, Morgan), noting that the measure revives the charter of the Export-Import Bank, said the 65 "no" votes in the House all came from Republicans who opposed the Ex-Im Bank provision.

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Nixon, Ivory, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that the bill contains "dozens of policy changes that could affect drivers, riders and anyone else who uses, builds or renovates the nation's roads, bridges, rails and transit systems," and goes on to detail a number of those provisions.

WPost: Lawmakers Should Have Increased The Gas Tax. A [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) editorial is critical of the bill, saying that while it "is something of an improvement over Congress's recent habits," lawmakers "failed a simple test in how to pay for the bill." The Post argues that "lawmakers resorted to a variety of gimmicks, one-time funding sources and flat-out bad policies" rather than "embrac[ing] the obvious solution" of "rais[ing] the gas tax to a suitable level."

SENATE APPROVES MEASURE TO REPEAL ACA. The [AP](#) (12/4, Fram) reports that Republicans "openly welcom[ed] a preordained veto," Thursday as the Senate, in a near party-line vote of 52-47, approved legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood. According to Republicans, a presidential veto "will underscore that a GOP triumph in next year's presidential and congressional elections would mean repeal of a statute they blame for surging medical costs and insurers abandoning some markets." The House is expected to pass the measure in the coming days. [McClatchy](#) (12/4, Douglas, 27K) says that passage of the measure is "at best a moral victory and talking point for Republicans in the coming campaigns for president and control of the Congress," adding that "unless and until they win the White House or bigger majorities in Congress," the measure is "the closest [Republicans will] ever get to repealing Obamacare." The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Herszenhom, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) also reports on the vote, noting that Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Mark Kirk joined 45 Democrats in opposing the bill.

A [Politico](#) (12/4, Gass, 1.19M) story published before the Senate vote said Majority Leader McConnell was "close to pulling off a feat that at first seemed impossible: Coax Ted Cruz and antagonistic conservative groups to back his strategy to repeal Obamacare." Cruz, along with Sens. Mike Lee and Marco Rubio, had threatened to vote against the measure "insisting that it didn't go far enough in the Republican quest to finally send a sweeping Obamacare repeal to the White House." However, McConnell "marshaled a secret weapon that ultimately would work in his favor: Anti-abortion groups," and managed to "push the firebrand presidential

contenders toward the 'yes' column on the health care legislation that always had a narrow margin of error." Cruz, Rubio, and Lee all voted for the measure.

[The Hill](#) (12/3, Carney, 654K) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that in a 48-52 vote, the Senate rejected an amendment to the repeal a bill to allow "federal funding for Planned Parenthood." The amendment, sponsored by Kirk, Collins, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski "would have struck the section of the bill that blocks federal funding for Planned Parenthood for one year."

Ryan: Republicans Will Offer ACA Replacement Next Year. House Speaker Ryan said Thursday that Republicans will unveil a plan to replace the ACA next year, [Reuters](#) (12/4, Comwell) reports. In a speech at the Library of Congress, Ryan said, "Next year, we are going to unveil a plan to replace every word of Obamacare." [The Hill](#) (12/3, Wong, Ferris, 654K) says Ryan "offer[ed] no specifics" but "hinted that his plan would include tax credits that, like under ObamaCare, help people afford insurance." In addition, it would, "repeal the individual and employer mandates at the heart of the law, which have been heavily criticized by conservatives."

Puzder: ACA Encourages Hiring Of Undocumented Immigrants. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, A15, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) op-ed, Andy Puzder, chief executive officer of CKE Restaurants, argues that because the Justice Department's petition to the Supreme Court to review a preliminary injunction blocking the implementation of the President's immigration executive order says the order does not "confer any form of legal status in this country," companies will be encouraged to hire undocumented immigrants over American citizens because they would not have to provide healthcare coverage or subsidies under the ACA, which says only "lawful residents" are eligible.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*The Latest Attack On Climate Science.*" The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes that earlier this year, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists "published research contradicting earlier reports that global warming had slowed in the past decade." But House Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith "is accusing the agency of rushing data to publication, and is demanding access to the internal communications of its employees. ... Attacks on climate science are nothing new," but what is "especially disturbing about this attack is that it appears based on a fundamental misunderstanding of how science operates: The re-examination of previous conclusions, which Mr. Smith casts as nefarious, is merely an example of the scientific method at work."

"Tough Talk And A Cowardly Vote On Terrorism." The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes, "Investigators now believe that what initially seemed a workplace shooting in San Bernardino... was a well-planned attack by a married couple with at least some contact with Islamic extremists." Though "while the nation suffered through the shock of another bloody massacre, on Thursday every Senate Republican" except Sen. Mark Kirk "voted against legislation to prevent people on the F.B.I.'s consolidated terrorist watchlist from purchasing guns or explosives." GOP presidential candidates have recently "been trying to outdo each other in describing how they'd crack down on global terrorism. But when a mass shooting at home calls attention to laws that put guns into the hands of suspected terrorists, they ask for a moment of silence, while taking action that speaks volumes."

"Russia's Fury Over Montenegro And NATO." The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes, "It is a measure of how cold the West's relations with Russia have become that NATO's membership invitation" to the "small, poor Balkan state" of Montenegro "would provoke furious cries of 'provocation' and 'encirclement' from the Kremlin." While Montenegro "poses no threat to Russia," President Vladimir Putin "considers any expansion of NATO an affront to Russian power. A Cold War posture is also seen in Mr. Putin's efforts to prop up the murderous and flailing Syrian government of Bashar al-Assad."

WASHINGTON POST. "*A Depressingly Endless Loop Of Mass Shootings.*" The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) editorializes, "Yes, the nation needs to pursue Islamist terrorists overseas more aggressively and combat radicalization at home. Yes, we need to offer better mental-health treatment. But we also need to make it more difficult for civilians to obtain weapons of war."

"Egypt's State Of Repression." The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) editorializes that the "harsh repression" of the Egyptian regime "is strengthening rather than weakening terrorist groups and leading to a steady decline in security" and that US military aid to Egypt is ineffective. Journalist Ismail Alexandrani was arrested on Sunday on charges of membership in the Muslim Brotherhood and "disseminating false news," referring to Alexandrani's

work criticizing the Egyptian army's Sinai operations. According to Egypt's Journalists Syndicate last month, 33 writers are being held in prison. The State Department told the Post, "We are closely following his case," but there has been no call for Alexandrani's release. The Post writes, "There should be."

"Congress Fails A Simple Test On Transportation." A [Washington Post](#) (12/4, 7.78M) editorial is critical of the highway bill passed by congress on Thursday, saying that while it "is something of an improvement over Congress's recent habits," lawmakers "failed a simple test in how to pay for the bill." The Post argues that "lawmakers resorted to a variety of gimmicks, one-time funding sources and flat-out bad policies" rather than "embrac[ing] the obvious solution" of "rais[ing] the gas tax to a suitable level."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Motive In San Bernardino" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says in an editorial that the focus must be on radicalization, and that if Democrats are serious about gun control, they should seek an outright weapons ban, rather than exploiting each incident for political gain.

"Judging Obamanet's Power Grab." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes on the case of US Telecom Association v. FCC, which will be heard Friday in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals and will challenge the FCC's rule classifying the Internet as a public utility. The Journal cites numerous congressional measures which it says that regulation violated, claiming it is one more example of the Obama Administration over-reaching, and expresses hope that the court will rule against the FCC and allow for an unfettered Internet.

"Draghi Agonistes." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorial chides investors for the reaction to the ECB's actions and says a better place for investors to focus their anger would be the politicians and economists who ignore the need for reform of entitlements and economic regulations.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[ECB Move Crushes Hopeful Markets](#)
[Acquaintances Shocked That Couple They Knew Are Shooting Suspects](#)
[US Opening All Military Combat Roles To Women](#)
[Avon In Talks To Sell North American Business To Cerberus](#)

New York Times:

[Arms Stockpile Is Found In Home Of Two Suspects](#)
[Fear In The Air, Americans Look Over Shoulders](#)
[A Couple Who Lived Quietly, Motives Unknown](#)
[Scientists Call For Moratorium On Editing Human Genome](#)
[Pentagon Opens All Combat Roles To Women: 'No Exceptions'](#)

Washington Post:

[Combat Units Are Opened To Women](#)
[Rubio's Clout As Ex-Speaker Enriched Him In Private Firm](#)
['Where's Syed?': Colleagues Tell How San Bernardino Shooting Unfolded](#)
[Couple Were Quiet And Withdrawn — Until Puzzling Explosion Of Violence](#)
[CIA Runs Shadow War Using Afghan Paramilitary Forces](#)

Financial Times:

[Market Sell-Off As Fresh Draghi Bid To Boost Growth Disappoints](#)
[Cameron Abandons Hope Of Early EU Deals As Allies Balk At New Demands](#)

Washington Times:

[San Bernardino Killers Erased Digital Presence Day Before The Attacks](#)
[Ethiopia Rail System Reflects Growing Ties With China](#)
[Paul Ryan Promises Conservative Agenda](#)
[Carter Promises Same Standards For Women In Combat Roles](#)
[Republicans Fast-track Obamacare Repeal To President's Desk](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: San Bernardino Shooting; San Bernardino Shooting-Survivor Interviewed; San Bernardino Shooting-Victims; San Bernardino Shooting-Suspects; 2016 Politics-San Bernardino Shooting; Mass Shootings Report; Mass Shooting Survival Tips; Defense Secretary-Women In Combat; Secret Service-Congressional Report; Oscar Pistorius-Murder Verdict.

CBS: San Bernardino Shooting; San Bernardino Shooting-Male Suspect; San Bernardino Shooting-Female Suspect; San Bernardino Shooting-Analysis; San Bernardino Shooting-Witness Account; San Bernardino Shooting-Muslim Community; San Bernardino Shooting-Victims; San Bernardino Shooting-Survivor Interviewed; Minneapolis-Police Shooting Protests; Defense Secretary-Women In Combat; Oscar Pistorius-Murder Verdict; Mass Shootings-Children.

NBC: San Bernardino Shooting; San Bernardino Shooting-Male Suspect; San Bernardino Shooting-Survivor Interviewed; San Bernardino Shooting-Victims; 2016 Politics-San Bernardino Shooting; Homegrown Terror Threat.

Network TV At A Glance:

San Bernardino Shooting – 47 minutes, 20 seconds
2016 Politics-San Bernardino Shooting – 3 minutes, 35 seconds
Mass Shootings – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
Oscar Pistorius-Murder Verdict – 40 seconds
Defense Secretary-Women In Combat – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: San Bernardino Shooting; Gun Control Debate; Chicago-Walmart Shooting; Atlas Rocket Launch Scrubbed.

CBS: Scott Weiland Found Dead; San Bernardino Shooting; Defense Secretary-Women In Combat; November Jobs Report; Baltimore-William Porter Trial; Wall Street.

FOX: San Bernardino Shooting; Senate-ACA Bill; San Francisco-Police Shooting; Chicago-Police Shooting Protests; New York-Sodium Warning Lawsuit; Army Safety Review.

NPR: San Bernardino Shooting; Senate-Gun Control Bills Rejected; Senate-ACA Bill; Baltimore-William Porter Trial; Paris Attacks-Bataclan Owners Interviewed; Washington DC-National Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing. Oval Office. Closed Press.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 200th anniversary of the 14th Congress convening in emergency quarters after the US Capitol had been burnt down – 200th anniversary of the 14th Congress convening, in a temporary brick structure built on the site of the current US Supreme Court, after the US Capitol had been burnt down by British troops in 1814 * The Senate remained on the same site until the restoration of the Capitol was completed in 1819. Location: TBD <http://www.senate.gov/> Contacts: Senate 1 202 224 3121.

9:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee field hearing on recovery efforts in South Carolina – Field hearing on "Strategies for Rebuilding: An Examination of Small Business Recovery Efforts in South Carolina." Panelists include Forest Lakes Fabrics Owner Michael Marsha, Web Rawls Galleries Owner Kay Stafford, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Ted Pitts, Cannon Ag Products Owner / Operator Jeremy Cannon, and SBA Head of Disaster Assistance James Riviera. Location: City Hall, 1737 Main St, Columbia, SC Columbia <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

US House: No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

Other: DoJ COPS Office director participates in "Looking to the Future of Civilian Oversight" symposium – National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and University of DC School of Law co-host symposium on "Looking to the Future of Civilian Oversight," with participants including Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Director Ronald Davis. Location: Washington, DC nacole.org/ https://twitter.com/NACOLE_org. Contacts: NACOLE 1 317 721 8133.

8:00 AM US Chamber of Commerce US-Israel Business Initiative Annual Meeting – US Chamber of Commerce US-Israel Business Initiative Annual Meeting, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the US-Israel Free Trade Agreement and bringing together hundreds of business leaders and govt officials from both countries. Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, US Trade Representative Amb. Mike Froman, and Israeli Education Minister Naftali Bennet keynote. Location: The Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>. Contacts: Chris Hoyler US Chamber of Commerce choyler@uschamber.com.

8:15 AM Former UK PM Tony Blair speaks at CFR “History Makers” series event – Former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair speaks at Council on Foreign Relations “History Makers” series event, discussing his foreign policy decision-making process and the lessons of his experience. Location: TBD www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org #CFRLive. Contacts: Jenny Mallamo Council on Foreign Relations JMallamo@cfr.org 1 202 509 8455. This event is available via live stream only.

10:00 AM CSIS discussion on issues affecting the future scope of missile defense efforts – “Full Spectrum Missile Defense” Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, on issues affecting the future scope of missile defense efforts, including prospects for countering missiles “left-of-launch,” reengagement decisions, alternate means of engagement, integration with offensive forces, and improving the missile defense cost curve. Speakers include former Missile Defense Agency Deputy Director Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Kenneth Todorov, former Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization Director Rear Adm. (Ret.) Archer Macy, former US Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Commanding General and Joint Functional Component Command – Integrated Missile Defense Commanding General Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Richard Formica, and former Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program Executive Rear Adm. (Ret.) Joseph Horn. Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>. Contacts: H. Andrew Schwartz CSIS media aschwartz@csis.org 1 202 775 3242 handrewschwartz. To RSVP, please email llwilliams@CSIS.org. Please provide your name, title and any organizational affiliation.

12:30 PM NPC Luncheon with Prince Ali Al Hussein of Jordan – Prince Ali Al Hussein, FIFA presidential hopeful and son of King Hussein of Jordan, will speak at a National Press Club luncheon on Friday, December 4. Prince Ali will address how FIFA can create a governing body worthy of the “World’s Game” of soccer in the wake of the organization’s recent corruption scandal. Contact: Lori Russo at lrusso@stantoncomm.com. Location: 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor. <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>. Contacts: National Press Club 1 202 662 7129. This is a ticketed event. <http://www.press.org/events/npc-luncheon-prince-ali-al-hussein-jordan>.

1:00 PM US-Arab Entrepreneurship & Innovation Forum and Arab-American Day – US-Arab Entrepreneurship & Innovation Forum and annual Arab-American Day, hosted by The League of Arab States and the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Washington, DC. Speakers include Chief Representative of the Arab League in DC Amb. Salah Sarhan, Ambassador of Lebanon in Washington, DC, Amb. Antonie Chedid, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State Amb. David Thome, former presidential candidate Ralph Nader, and National US-Arab Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David Hamod. Location: Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC www.arableague-us.org. Contacts: Jan Du Plain Ronald Reagan Building Office of Trade Promotion Embassy Liaison Duplainenterprises@gmail.com 1 703 534 3400.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “Daisy Ridley from the new ‘Star Wars’ movie is here. Everyone’s talking about her role. In the movie, she plays a character who tries to salvage massive wreckages, which explains why she’s been hired by Jeb Bush’s campaign. Interesting coincidence.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Things haven’t been going too great for Jeb Bush, but he’s not giving up. In fact, I read that his campaign has spent the most money on TV ads, at \$30 million. I don’t want to say Jeb’s run too many ads, but his new Secret Service code name is ‘Geico.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Over on the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton recently started following a bunch of new people and organizations on Instagram, including the home improvement channel, HGTV. When asked why, Hillary was

like, 'Oh, I'm getting a new house soon.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Hillary went on kind of an Instagram binge and followed a bunch of celebrities like Beyoncé, Katy Perry and Lady Gaga. When asked if he follows any women on Instagram, Bill Clinton was like, 'All of them.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, February 12, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please [contact](#) Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016 7:00 AM EST

Holiday Message. In observance of the Washington's Birthday holiday, we will not publish on Monday, February 15, 2016. Service will resume on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Occupation Ends With Arrests Of Last Four Holdouts.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Announces NPS Museum Collections Available Through Google.](#)
- + [Obama To Create Three National Monuments In California.](#)
- + [Supreme Court's Stay Of Clean Power Plan Could Shape Climate Change Policy On Capitol Hill.](#)
- + [House Panel Report: Obama Administration Concealed Details Of Animas River Spill.](#)
- + [Interior Officials To Visit Ohio Next Week.](#)
- + [Interior Looking To Add Micro Drones.](#)
- + [Utah Gov. Herbert Considers Lawsuit To Take Control Of Public Lands.](#)
- + [House Bill Would Block New Fossil Fuel Leases On Federal Land.](#)
- + [Some Oregon, California Leaders Upset Over Removal Of Klamath Dams.](#)
- + [Ads Rebuke Senators For Votes To Curb Executive Power.](#)
- + [Movement Seeks To Entice People Outdoors.](#)
- + [Obama Offered Federal Employees Praise In Budget Proposal.](#)
- + [Opinion: Federal Landholdings Violate Founders' Intent.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Interior Claims Immunity To Tribe's Suit Over Education Reform.](#)
- + [Woman Stabbed To Death On Ute Mountain Ute Reservation.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Interior Allocates Funding For New Wetland On Alamo River.](#)
- + [Rep. Thompson Introduces Lake Berryessa Legislation.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Bird Concerns Delay Massachusetts Wind Farm.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Court Hears Arguments On BLM's Fracking Rule.](#)
- + [Environmental Group Questions Peabody's Self Bonding.](#)
- + [Activists Plan Rally At BLM Auction In Colorado.](#)
- + [BLM Planning To Cancel Thompson Divide Leases.](#)
- + [BLM And USFS Extend Comment Period For Washington Drilling Project.](#)
- + [Dallas Leaders Protest BLM Auction.](#)
- + [Durango Supports BLM Study On Gas Development Plans.](#)

- + [Scientists: Mountaintop Removal Mining's Effects Similar To Volcanic Eruptions.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Wyoming, Arch Coal Reach Self-bonding Deal.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Op-Ed: Offshore Drilling Is Not The Answer To US Energy Needs.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Unveils Major Revamp Of Management Regulations.](#)
- + [Wild Horse Advocates Calls For Halt To Planned Burro Round-up.](#)
- + [BLM Seeking Input On Proposed Changes To Moab Campgrounds.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Comments On Spaceport Southern-road Study.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS Director Ashe To Speak At Ducks Unlimited Event.](#)
- + [Hundreds Of Manatees Huddle At Three Sisters Springs To Escape Cold.](#)
- + [Animal Activists Sue to Stop Import of Elephants.](#)
- + [Federal Scientists Want To Study Walkkill River After Findings Of Sex Mutations In Fish.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Old Albatross Hatches New Chick At Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [IMAX Film "National Parks Adventure" Celebrates Parks.](#)
- + [NPS Director Jarvis Responds On Maine Monument Proposal.](#)
- + [Lawmakers Push For Black History Commission.](#)
- + [Idaho Residents Seek National Park Status For Craters Of The Moon.](#)
- + [Judge: "Idling" Is Not "Parking."](#)
- + [Yosemite Plans March 1 Concessionaire Transition.](#)
- + [NPS Announces Virginia Battlefield Grants.](#)
- + [Gettysburg Marks Anniversary Of Founding As A National Park.](#)
- + [Wreath-laying To Mark 207th Anniversary Of Lincoln's Birth.](#)
- + [Three Assateague Island Mares Expecting Spring Foals.](#)
- + [Jewel Cave National Park Removes Age Restrictions.](#)
- + [Fire Island National Seashore Superintendent Says Robbins Rest Needs Emergency Dune.](#)
- + [Group Of Human Scavengers Living Off Land In Yellowstone.](#)
- + [Lawsuit Targets Cattle Grazing At Point Reyes National Seashore.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama: "Very Confident" Of "Strong Legal Footing" On Clean Power Plan.](#)
- + [Ryan Expects Bipartisan Effort To Provide Zika Funding.](#)
- + [Yellen Still Expects Interest Rate Increases This Year.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE OCCUPATION ENDS WITH ARRESTS OF LAST FOUR HOLDOUTS. The end of the Oregon refuge standoff generated significant news coverage last night and this

morning, with several minutes of reporting on network newscasts and prominent coverage in print and wire media. Prominently featured in the coverage was the unrelated arrest of Cliven Bundy, the father of two of the occupiers, who had engaged in a controversial standoff with federal officials in 2014 over grazing rights.

[ABC World News](#) (2/11, story 4, 1:35, Muir, 5.84M) reported on "a dramatic end to the armed standoff in Oregon" with "three of the final four holdouts finally surrendering this morning," becoming "part of a group of 16 people now under federal indictment after 41 days that wreaked havoc." The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/11, story 4, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) similarly reported that the "six-week stand between the FBI and armed anti-government protesters ended peacefully," as "the final four hold-outs surrendered." CBS noted that "one refused to go quietly, though, ranting, 'liberty or death.'"

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/11, lead story, 2:40, Holt, 7.86M) reported "the armed siege that has captivated the nation's attention for weeks has reached a dramatic conclusion. In the woods of Oregon, the final anti-government protesters occupying a federal wildlife refuge, have surrendered to the FBI." The end came "after tense all-night negotiations heard live by tens of thousands of people across the country who listened to every heart-stopping moment play out." NBC (Fryer) added that the FBI "closed in on the occupiers last night, a dramatic development that was also live streamed with tens of thousands listening."

The [Oregonian](#) (2/11, Zaitz, 864K) reports that the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge ended "after an hourlong negotiation with the last protester." Taken into custody by the FBI "were David Fry, 27, of the Cincinnati area, Jeff Banta, 46, of Elko, Nevada, Sean Anderson, 47, and his wife, Sandy, 48, of Riggins, Idaho," who "each face a federal conspiracy charge for their role in the occupation, joining at least 12 others already arraigned on that charge." The [Oregonian](#) adds that "at the final moment after the first three had walked out, Fry said he was feeling suicidal and wouldn't give himself up." Fry "rebuffed supporters" for over an hour, "saying he feared going to prison and losing his freedom," but he finally "said he wanted a cigarette and cookie and started walking out."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Wolf, 8.98M) reports that Fry's surrender, "which had an audience of more than 30,000 people listening live, capped an extraordinary 18 hours in which America's growing and extreme anti-government movement morphed into something that move closely resembled a strange and nerve-wracking reality TV show." The [Post](#) adds that federal agents on Wednesday night arrested Cliven Bundy, "father of the group's leader and himself a veteran of armed standoffs with federal agents, as he arrived in Portland."

The [AP](#) (2/11, Boone, Bellisle) reports that Cliven Bundy, "who was at the center of a 2014 standoff at his ranch in Nevada," was charged on Thursday for that incident. A criminal complaint filed in a Las Vegas federal court "charged the 69-year-old Bundy with conspiracy, assault on a federal officer, obstruction, weapons charges and other crimes." He is "accused of leading supporters who pointed military-style weapons at federal agents trying to enforce a court order to round up Bundy cattle from federal rangeland."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/11, Yardley, Pearce, 4.1M) reports that the FBI said in a statement, "No one was injured, and no shots were fired." The four arrested on Thursday are scheduled to be arraigned today in a Portland, OR federal court. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Lazo, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that a spokesman for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, said the agency is "relieved that the illegal occupation of Malheur NWR is over" and said it would assist the FBI in processing the scene and "working to repair damages caused by the occupation."

The [New York Times](#) (2/11, Seminara, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports the occupation "highlighted longstanding grievances, particularly among some ranchers, over federal government ownership and management of vast acreage in the West," but "despite the occupiers' calls for people from around the country to join them, the mass movement they hoped for never materialized."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/11, Seminara, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/11, Seminara, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/11, Revkin, 12.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/4, 8.98M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/11, Yardley, Pearce, 4.1M), [NPR](#) (2/11, 1.81M), [ABC News](#) (2/12, 4M), [CNN](#) (2/11, Martinez, Berlinger, Ford, 3.96M), [CNBC](#) (2/11, 2.3M), [Reuters](#) (2/12, Edwards), [Reuters](#) (2/12), [Reuters](#) (2/12, Sebens), [Reuters](#) (2/12), [Reuters](#) (2/12, Sebens), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/11, 518K), [USA Today](#) (2/11, 5.56M), [MarketWatch](#) (2/11, 967K), the [Oregonian](#) (2/11, 864K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/11, 290K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/11, 290K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (2/11, 463K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (2/11, 463K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Press, 1.99M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Bellisle, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Press, 285K), the

[Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Richardson, 285K), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/11, Wagner, 3.7M), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/11, 3.7M), the [New York Post](#) (2/11, 2.92M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/11, 442K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/11, 442K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/11, 442K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/11, 2K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/11, Levin, 3.71M), [RT](#) (2/11, 350K), and [KTVL-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (2/11, 1K).

Cliven Bundy Arrested. [Politico Pro](#) (2/11) reports that "Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was arrested at Portland International Airport late Wednesday night while on his way to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, where an armed occupation organized by his sons, Ammon and Ryan, appears to be coming to an end." Bundy "faces felony charges of conspiracy to impede a federal officer, as do his sons, who are also in jail." He "faces charges stemming from a 2014 standoff at his southeastern Nevada ranch between militia supporters and U.S. Bureau of Land Management authorities, who had impounded Bundy's cattle over \$1 million in unpaid grazing fees and court ordered fines."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (2/12, Ritter), [The Hill](#) (2/12, Cama, 862K), [NPR](#) (2/11, 1.81M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Phillips, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Ken Ritter |, Ap, 8.98M), [USA Today](#) (2/11, Friedman, 5.56M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (2/11, 463K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/12, Press, 881K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/11, 975K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Ritter, Press, 1.99M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (2/11, 463K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/11, 290K), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (2/11, Baumann, 1.05M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Baumann, 285K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (2/12, 479K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/11, 388K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/11, 2K), [Vox](#) (2/11, 758K), [Vox](#) (2/11, 758K), [RT](#) (2/11, 350K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/11, 4.92M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/11, Wong, 3.71M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Ritter, 6.31M) and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/11, 352K).

Oregon Gov. Brown: State Will Seek Reimbursement For Standoff Costs. The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (2/12, 122K) reports that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said that the state will "focus on helping the community of Burns to recover, after the remaining four occupiers at a nearby national wildlife refuge surrendered to FBI agents on Thursday." Brown said "she continues to seek federal reimbursement of state and local government costs associated with the occupation, and she is also talking to federal officials about federal land management issues."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/11, 113K), the [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (2/11, 23K), and [The East Oregonian](#) (2/11, 24K).

Utah Gov. Herbert: Oregon Occupiers Had Wrong Approach. The [AP](#) (2/11, 1.99M) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert "says the armed occupiers of an Oregon wildlife refuge showed poor behavior but should serve as a wakeup call to everyone that there are legitimate frustrations with the federal government." Herbert "said that the Oregon occupiers waged a fight separate from Utah's push to take over public lands but both movements stem from shared frustration with federal land managers."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (2/11, 4.02M), [Fortune](#) (2/11, 4.02M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Boone, Bellisle, Press, 1.99M), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/11, 518K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (2/11, 194K), the [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (2/11), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/12, 2K), [Talking Points Memo](#) (2/11, 303K), and [Talking Points Memo](#) (2/11, 303K).

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES NPS MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH GOOGLE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication) reports that the Obama Administration on Thursday "unveiled a new partnership with Google Inc. that will make thousands of historically and culturally significant objects in the National Park Service's museum collection available online." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This marriage of technology and history means that anyone, anywhere can see artifacts and sites that provide a taste of the rich and diverse story of America." Jewell announced the partnership at an event marking Black History Month at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

[Alabama Live](#) (2/11, 627K) reports that "at Tuskegee, Jewell was joined by fourth graders from DC Wolfe Elementary School, Tuskegee Public School, and Notasulga Elementary School, who participated in a virtual reality flight simulation activity, and learned about the Tuskegee Airmen's contributions to the nation." The children also "received Every Kid in a Park passes that provide fourth graders nationwide free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year."

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (2/12, 4M), the [Washington Times](#) (2/11, 285K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (2/11, 196K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (2/11, 167K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11,

1.99M), [Government Technology](#) (2/11, 7K), [Android Headlines](#) (2/11, 26K), [SlashGear](#) (2/11, 39K), [TechCrunch](#) (2/11, 356K), [The Verge](#) (2/11, 669K), [Tech Times](#) (2/11, 173K), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Kastrenakes, 6.31M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, 6.31M), [WSFA-TV Montgomery \(AL\)](#) Montgomery, AL (2/11, 112K), [WAAV-TV Huntsville \(AL\)](#) Huntsville, AL (2/11, 3K), [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/12, 255K), and [WALA-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (2/11, 32K).

OBAMA TO CREATE THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Eilperin, 8.98M) reports the President on Friday will “designate more than 1.8 million acres of California desert for protection with the creation of three national monuments: Castle Mountains, Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow,” which will “connect three existing sites – Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and the Mojave National Preserve – to create the second-largest desert preserve in the world.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/11, Sahagun, 4.1M), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (2/12, 302K), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/12, 98K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/12, Rogers, 285K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Rogers, Press, 1.99M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/12, 853K), and [USA Today](#) (2/12, Roth, 5.56M).

SUPREME COURT’S STAY OF CLEAN POWER PLAN COULD SHAPE CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY ON CAPITOL HILL. [E&E Daily](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Supreme Court’s decision to freeze the Obama administration’s signature carbon rule will likely shape the political debate on climate change on Capitol Hill and in the upcoming presidential elections, lawmakers yesterday predicted.” According to the article, “House Republicans may not be as gung-ho about going after the Obama administration’s climate agenda.” Meanwhile, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, “ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, said that the halt on the Clean Power Plan ‘brings new urgency’ to the Obama administration’s moratorium on coal leasing.”

The [Greenwire](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication) reports that “political leaders can still move forward on addressing climate change even with the Clean Power Plan mired in legal uncertainty, former officials in the Obama and George W. Bush administrations said yesterday.” According to officials, “incentives for wind power, solar energy and energy efficiency are much more likely to gain support among both Democrats and Republicans in the near future than a Clean Power Plan-like regulatory regime aimed at combatting climate change.” Also, “economic incentives are a way of getting around the scientific debate on climate, said Lynn Scarlett, who served as deputy secretary at the Department of the Interior during the Bush administration.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Forbes](#) (2/11, 8.72M) and the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/11, Board, 4.1M).

HOUSE PANEL REPORT: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CONCEALED DETAILS OF ANIMAS RIVER SPILL. The [Washington Times](#) (2/11, Richardson, 285K) reports a report released Thursday by the House Natural Resources Committee “slammed the Environmental Protection Agency for the Animas River spill, attributing it to the crew’s sloppiness and accusing the Obama administration of deliberately concealing information about the accident.” The investigation by the panel’s majority staff “accused the EPA and Interior Department of ‘incompetence and willful efforts to evade consequences,’ the result being that they ‘cannot be trusted to spearhead remediation of sites like the Gold King Mine.’”

[E&E Publishing](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the committee accuses the BOR, “which Interior assigned to conduct the ‘independent review’ of the incident, of having clear conflicts of interest that manifested themselves in the report.” The report says that “EPA purposefully chose Interior to conduct the investigation over the Army Corps of Engineers because the Army Corps had reservations about degradation at the Gold King mine site.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (2/12, Cama, 862K), [Fox News](#) (2/11, 9.42M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Richardson, 285K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/12, 388K), the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/12, 87K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/12, Paul, 881K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/11, 31K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (2/11, 463K), [US News & World Report](#) (2/11, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Brown, Elliott, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/12, Paul, 881K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/11, 290K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (2/11, 463K), the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (2/12, 54K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Brown, Elliott, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Brown Dan Elliott |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/11, 44K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/11, 31K), [Colorado Public Radio](#) (2/11), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/11, 3.71M), [Law360](#) (2/12, 22K), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Brown, Elliott, 6.31M), [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/11, 69K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (2/11, 78K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/11, 352K), and [KKTU-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (2/11, 40K).

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO VISIT OHIO NEXT WEEK. The [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (2/11, Gnaou, 155K) reports that Interior officials will visit Ohio next week. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, and NPS Deputy Director Peggy O'Dell will travel to the Young monument in Wilberforce. Jarvis will "give park passes to fourth graders in Dayton and visit the Colonel Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument Feb. 18."

Additional coverage was provided by [My Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (2/11) and [WHIO-TV Dayton, OH](#) (2/11, 145K).

INTERIOR LOOKING TO ADD MICRO DRONES. [Government Computer News](#) (2/11, 501) reports that the Interior Department is "considering beefing up its fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles with the addition of up to 100 micro drones." Interior said "it want to identify parties that can provide small, rotary-powered commercial unmanned aerial systems similar to 3DR Solo for Interior's Office of Aviation Services." According to a plan, "the drones could help with Interior's population surveys of threatened species, habitat surveys, erosion mapping, boundary assessment and invasive species detection, abandoned solid waste assessments and burned-area assessments."

UTAH GOV. HERBERT CONSIDERS LAWSUIT TO TAKE CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS. [KUER-FM Salt Lake City](#) (2/11, Grimett, 4K) reports that Utah Governor Gary Herbert says he's "intrigued" by the idea of suing the federal government for control of public lands in Utah as part of a "much larger strategy." It says the cost of such a suit is estimated to be \$14 million dollars.

In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/11, 388K) calls the Utah Public Lands Management Act the "Utah Public Lands Fairies and Unicorns Act," and says that the bill's "authorship and wording" indicate that public lands would undergo "destructive exploitation" under the control of the state. The Tribune asserts the federal lands will "remain federal lands."

In an opinion post in [The Hill's](#) (2/12, Molvar, 862K) "Pundits Blog," Erik Molvar, a director from the NGO WildEarth Guardians, calls for the creation of a new "Bear Ears National Monument" in Southern Utah. He says that Utah's move to take control of wilderness lands there has "crashed and burned," that its provisions "undermine conservation," and that the bill is opposed by the biggest environmental groups in the region, but that a national monument would help clean up "part of the mess."

HOUSE BILL WOULD BLOCK NEW FOSSIL FUEL LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND. [The Hill](#) (2/11, Henry, 862K) reported that Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) on Thursday introduced the Keep It In The Ground Act, which would block new leases for fossil fuel production on federal land and in federal waters. The bill is the House version of a bill Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) introduced in November. Both bills seek to block future fossil fuel developments to encourage lawmakers to wean the US from fossil fuels and transition to cleaner energy.

Additional coverage was provided by [Think Progress](#) (2/11, 329K), [Law360](#) (2/11, 22K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/11, Milman, 3.71M).

SOME OREGON, CALIFORNIA LEADERS UPSET OVER REMOVAL OF KLAMATH DAMS. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/11, 113K) reports that the Interior Department has said "it will work with Oregon, California and PacifiCorp to amend the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement and move forward with plans to remove the four dams from the Klamath River." But "local leaders say they are dismayed with the renewed effort to demolish" the dams. For example, Siskiyou County Supervisor Grace Bennett, District 4, said "she feels like Siskiyou County, Calif., leaders were left behind in the decision-making process."

ADS REBUKE SENATORS FOR VOTES TO CURB EXECUTIVE POWER. [E&E Daily](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication) reports that the League of Conservation Voters on Thursday "announced it is spending \$20,000 on ads rebuking two senators who voted in favor of legislation to curb the president's power to designate national monuments." The Facebook ads take aim at Sens. Joe Manchin and Rob Portman for supporting Sen. Mike Lee's amendment to the bipartisan "Energy Policy Modernization Act" late last week. LCV President Gene Karpinski said, "Politicians who vote to gut the law first used to protect half our national parks are not pro-parks. As we celebrate the National Park Service's Centennial year, it is incomprehensible that these senators support tearing down the very law that ensured we could quickly protect our country's special places for future generations."

MOVEMENT SEEKS TO ENTICE PEOPLE OUTDOORS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/11, 1.25M) reports

that “in what appears to be an emerging trend in outdoor recreation, government land management agencies, nonprofit groups and others are using a mix of enticements to get more people outdoors – particularly millennials, younger families and other nontraditional demographics.” According to the article, “the goals are to increase outdoors participation, buoy attendance at public venues (parks, refuges and trails), improve public health, and hopefully enlist a new generation of outdoors stewards.”

OBAMA OFFERED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PRAISE IN BUDGET PROPOSAL. In the [Washington Post](#) (2/11, 8.98M) “Federal Diary” blog, Joe Davidson writes President Obama “bequeathed his workforce strong words of praise” in the recently released budget proposal, “even if he couldn’t leave them much money.” Davidson highlights that the “Strengthening the Federal Workforce” section of the budget “contains a paean to federal employees, lauding them for making administration policies a success.” The budget document says federal employees “addressed a wide range of national priorities – including modernizing the military by opening all combat positions to women, negotiating complex trade and political treaties and determining a way to rate college’s return on investment” and helped improve the economy.

Additional Coverage Of Federal Budget Request. Additional coverage of the federal budget proposal was provided by the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/11), the [Tri-State Livestock News \(SD\)](#) (2/11), the [Native American Times](#) (2/11, 337), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/11, 279K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/11, 569K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/11, 198K), the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (2/11, 100K), [Yellowhammer News](#) (2/11), and [Geo Community](#) (2/11).

OPINION: FEDERAL LANDHOLDINGS VIOLATE FOUNDERS’ INTENT. In a [New American](#) (2/11, Jasper, 3K) column, Senior Editor William Jasper criticizes the federal government for seeking add to lands under its control, or for holding on to largest expanses of land in the West. He says that the constitution sought to limit federal ownership of land, and that “the federal boot is heavy” as agencies continue “their decades-long buying spree” of “millions more acres,” when funds are insufficient for current landholdings. He says there is no “practical, moral, or constitutional basis” for the federal government to own “vast swaths of the American West.”

[Empowering Native American Communities:](#)

INTERIOR CLAIMS IMMUNITY TO TRIBE’S SUIT OVER EDUCATION REFORM. [Law360](#) (2/12, 22K) reports that the Interior Department “on Wednesday countered a South Dakota tribe’s lawsuit over the department’s proposed restructuring of support systems for aboriginal schools, telling a federal judge that it is immune to the suit.”

WOMAN STABBED TO DEATH ON UTE MOUNTAIN UTE RESERVATION. The [AP](#) (2/12) reports that “an investigation is underway after a 20-year-old woman was stabbed to death at a home on the Ute Mountain Ute reservation in southwestern Colorado.” According to Jeff Dorschner, a spokesman for the US Attorney’s Office, “no arrests have been made in early Monday’s death of Keisha Meya Colorow, of Towaoc.” The BIA and the FBI are investigating the death.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/10, 4K) and [KOAA-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (2/11, 28K).

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

INTERIOR ALLOCATES FUNDING FOR NEW WETLAND ON ALAMO RIVER. [KXO-AM](#) El Centro, CA (2/11) reports that the Interior Department has “agreed to allocate \$3 million to fund a wetlands project on the Alamo River.” According to the article, “the 31 acre wetland will be designed to improve water quality as it flows into the Salton Sea. Kelley said it was another step towards the restoration of the Sea.”

REP. THOMPSON INTRODUCES LAKE BERRYESSA LEGISLATION. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (2/11, 73K) reports that Rep. Mike Thompson has “introduced the Lake Berryessa Recreation Enhancement Act (H.R. 4521) legislation to transfer recreation management at Lake Berryessa from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).” Thompson said, “I introduced this legislation to put the right federal agency in charge of managing recreation at Lake Berryessa. As it is currently structured, BOR – an agency tasked with managing water resources – is managing recreation at Lake Berryessa.” He added, “BOR shouldn’t be responsible for recreation at the Lake because BOR doesn’t do recreation, BLM does. This legislation has strong support in the local community and has over 150 bipartisan cosponsors in Congress because transferring management to BLM is the right thing to do.”

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIRD CONCERNS DELAY MASSACHUSETTS WIND FARM. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/11, Bravender, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that on Thursday, a US Court of Appeals panel heard arguments regarding challenges to the proposed Massachusetts Cape Wind project that say that the Fish and Wildlife service failed to consider the "best scientific and commercial data available" when addressing impact to migratory birds protected by the Endangered Species Act. A decision is expected "within the next year."

Onshore Energy Development:

COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON BLM'S FRACKING RULE. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "oil and gas industry groups are urging a federal court to toss an appeal from the Obama administration and environmental groups that want new regulations on hydraulic fracturing to take effect." Attorneys for the Independent Petroleum Association of America and Western Energy Alliance have "asked the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to dismiss a challenge from the Department of the Interior and environmental allies seeking to reverse an injunction of the agency's fracking rule." Industry claims that "Interior's appeal will be moot by the time the 10th Circuit hears the case."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP QUESTIONS PEABODY'S SELF BONDING. The [AP](#) (2/11, Gruver) reports the environmental group WildEarth Guardians filed a complaint with the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, "questioning Peabody Energy's ability to fully bond its coal mines in Wyoming and elsewhere in the Rocky Mountain region," arguing the company doesn't have the funding to qualify for self-bonding. [Reuters](#) (2/12, Bailey) reports the group wants the regulator to order Peabody to secure more than \$1 billion in guarantees to cover mine cleanup costs.

ACTIVISTS PLAN RALLY AT BLM AUCTION IN COLORADO. The [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (2/11, 291K) reports that "dozens of climate activists" planned to "rally Thursday morning outside of the Bureau of Land Management office in Lakewood, Colo., calling for an end to new auctions of public lands to fossil fuel companies." The activists will also "deliver a letter to regional BLM Director Ruth Welch, asking her to cancel all future auctions and to keep fossil fuels on public lands in the ground." The rally is "part of the rapidly growing 'Keep It in the Ground' movement calling on President Obama to define his climate legacy and stop new fossil fuel leases on public lands and oceans – a step that would keep up to 450 billion tons of carbon pollution from escaping into the atmosphere."

BLM PLANNING TO CANCEL THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASES. Additional coverage that the BLM is "moving toward a compromise between conservationists and energy officials about oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide" was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/11, 1.99M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/12, 881K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, 285K), the [Aspen \(CO\) Daily News](#) (2/11, 27), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\) Denver](#) (2/11, 318K).

BLM AND USFS EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD FOR WASHINGTON DRILLING PROJECT. The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (2/11, Pesanti, 94K) reports that BLM and USFS will extend the comment period for an environmental assessment of the Ascot Resources Gold Mountain exploratory drilling permit application until the first week of March. The Columbian reports that responsibility for control of resources on and around the site is shared by BLM, USFS, and Ascot.

DALLAS LEADERS PROTEST BLM AUCTION. The [Denton \(TX\) Record-Chronicle](#) (2/11, Scott, 48K) reports that Dallas leaders are protesting a BLM auction of land adjacent to Lewisville Lake, citing concerns over water quality, the Lewisville Dam, and lack of notification given to residents.

DURANGO SUPPORTS BLM STUDY ON GAS DEVELOPMENT PLANS. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/11, Romeo, 31K) reports that Durango residents voted in "near unanimous" favor for more study into how gas resources will be developed in Southern Colorado. Supporters favor the development of a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) that would strategically map new well locations. The MLP is opposed by energy companies and county commissioners who say it would unnecessarily restrict operations.

SCIENTISTS: MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING'S EFFECTS SIMILAR TO VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS.

[Think Progress](#) (2/11, Valentine, 329K) reports on a study by Duke University researchers that quantifies changes to the landscape from mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia, and says that physical effects are "similar to volcanic eruptions," and that the "entire landscape is fractured, deepened, and decoupled from prior landscape evolution trajectories."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WYOMING, ARCH COAL REACH SELF-BONDING DEAL. Additional coverage that "Wyoming regulators have reached a deal with Arch Coal to accept up to \$75 million in place of the company's \$486 million in bonding obligations in the state while the company goes through Chapter 11 bankruptcy" was provided by [KMOX-TV St. Louis \(MO\)](#) St. Louis (2/11, 18K) and the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (2/11, 24K).

Offshore Energy Development:

OP-ED: OFFSHORE DRILLING IS NOT THE ANSWER TO US ENERGY NEEDS. In a column in [Inertia](#) (2/11, Nelson, 6K), Surfrider Foundation CEO Chad Nelson and Visla CEO Paul Naude oppose the Administration's plan to allow drilling in areas of the Atlantic Ocean, saying that offshore drilling is not the answer to US energy needs. They say "the risks far outweigh the rewards" of drilling, because it will negatively impact coastal communities and injure marine life.

America's Great Outdoors:***Bureau of Land Management:***

BLM UNVEILS MAJOR REVAMP OF MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the Obama Administration on Thursday "announced the first major step toward implementing a new land-use planning approach across hundreds of millions of acres of federal land." The BLM "unveiled a proposed rule that will amend the regulations governing how agency resource management plans (RMPs) are developed, amended and revised." According to the article, "the new rule is designed to allow BLM to revise and amend the 160 RMPs that guide energy development, wildlife protections and recreation on the agency's 245 million acres more quickly to address a host of major land management issues." Janice Schneider, Department of the Interior assistant secretary for land and minerals management, said today in a statement, "The changes we are proposing will improve our ability to respond to today's environmental, economic and social realities, including the need to have strong science, early and regular public input and a landscape-level approach to natural resource challenges and opportunities."

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES CALLS FOR HALT TO PLANNED BURRO ROUND-UP. The AP Salt Lake City (2/12, 404K) reports that the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign is "speaking out against a planned federal round-up of wild burros in eastern Utah as part of an in-depth study of the animals." The group said Thursday that "the herd near Green River is one of the few that's been relatively undisturbed for more than two decades, and removing animals could permanently skew wild burro research by interrupting the animals' natural patterns and creating inflated birth rates." The BLM says "it's going ahead with the plan to round up about 130 of the 220 wild donkeys in the Sinbad herd."

BLM SEEKING INPUT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO MOAB CAMPGROUNDS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/11, 402K) reports that the BLM's Moab field office is "seeking public input on a proposal to alter the Kings Bottom, Moonflower and Spring Canyon campgrounds along Kane Creek Road." According to the article, "under the proposal, campsites 3 through 8 in Moonflower would be relocated; the existing sites would be reclaimed, and a designated hiking trail would be marked to the end of the canyon."

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON SPACEPORT SOUTHERN-ROAD STUDY. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (2/11, 47K) reports that the BLM Las Cruces District is "seeking public comments on a study, known as an environmental assessment, that evaluates impacts to public lands in Doña Ana and Sierra Counties for proposed road improvements on a southern road to Spaceport America."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO SPEAK AT DUCKS UNLIMITED EVENT. The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (2/11, 89K) reports that the Fredericksburg chapter of Ducks Unlimited has "scheduled a new 'Gun Bash—

Wild Game Dinner' event for Feb. 26." FWS Director Dan Ashe is among the planned speakers at the event.

HUNDREDS OF MANATEES HUDDLE AT THREE SISTERS SPRINGS TO ESCAPE COLD. The AP (2/12, Lush) reports that on Thursday morning, about 500 manatees "crowded into the Three Sisters Springs as temperatures along Florida's Gulf Coast dipped below 50 degrees." Ivan Vincente, visitor services specialist for the FWS at Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, said, "They're basically chilling in the springs sleeping. They're spending the vast majority of the time resting and conserving energy." Vincente noted that "this year is unusual because the manatees arrived at the springs about 60 miles north of Tampa in January and have camped out there for weeks because of the cold."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (2/11, 803K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/11, Lush, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Tamara Lush |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Lush, 285K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/11, 4.92M), [AOL](#) (2/11, 6.15M), [Florida Today](#) (2/11, 204K), and [WCVB-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (2/11, 418K).

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS SUE TO STOP IMPORT OF ELEPHANTS. [Courthouse News](#) (2/11, 7K) reports that "animal rights group Friends of Animals sued in Federal Court this week to reverse a Fish and Wildlife Service decision allowing three American zoos to import 18 elephants from Swaziland." Friends of Animals' lawsuit "claims that the U.S. government violated the National Environmental Policy Act by issuing a permit to allow the transfer of animals without fully evaluating what impact the process of capture and transport would have on the emotional and physical well-being of the elephants." The lawsuit noted that "evidence has shown that elephants suffer from depression, anxiousness, mood swings and fear, and face a higher risk of disease while in captivity."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (2/12, 549K).

FEDERAL SCIENTISTS WANT TO STUDY WALLKILL RIVER AFTER FINDINGS OF SEX MUTATIONS IN FISH. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (2/11, 98K) reports that "federal scientists are recommending that a portion of the Wallkill River in Sussex County be studied in greater detail to find out why some male fish have developed female sexual traits, officials said Thursday." According to the article, "the Wallkill is one of six national wildlife refuge sites in the Northeast that scientists at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service want to study further due to the high incidence of smallmouth bass growing immature eggs in their testes." David Eisenhauer, a spokesman for the FWS, said, "When you drill down to the individual refuge level, you can begin to ask questions such as what is it in the water that may be causing the effect, where is it coming from and what can we do to alleviate the problem."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OLD ALBATROSS HATCHES NEW CHICK AT ATOLL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Additional coverage that Wisdom the Laysan albatross has hatched a chick at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Fears, 8.98M), the [New Hampshire Voice](#) (2/11), the [New York Post](#) (2/11, 2.92M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/10, 442K), [Nature World News](#) (2/11), and [Value Walk](#) (2/11, 29K).

National Park Service:

IMAX FILM "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE" CELEBRATES PARKS. The AP (2/11, Harpaz, Editor, 1.99M) reports that a new IMAX movie, "National Parks Adventure," debuts Friday, celebrating "the beauty and thrills of America's parks." The film is "part of a yearlong celebration marking the centennial of the National Park Service." The article notes that "the movie was filmed over nine months in more than 30 national parks, including Yellowstone, Glacier National Park, Yosemite, the Grand Tetons and Death Valley."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, Harpaz, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/11, Beth J. Harpaz |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/11, 402K), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (2/11, 42K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/11, 388K), [Fox News](#) (2/11, 9.42M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/11, 4.92M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/12, Harpaz, 6.31M), [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/11, 255K), and [KOLN-TV Lincoln \(NE\)](#) Lincoln, NE (2/11, 46K).

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS RESPONDS ON MAINE MONUMENT PROPOSAL. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/11, 173K) reports that Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and Rep. Bruce Poliquin "released a letter Thursday in which the nation's top park service official extolled the virtues of national parks and monuments in response to their 'serious reservations' about a proposal to create a monument in the Katahdin region." In a letter dated Feb. 4, NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis "praises the approximately 87,500 acres that the family of

millionaire entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby wants to donate to the National Park Service this year." Jarvis said that "he looked forward to hearing more from the three members of Maine's congressional delegation about the proposal."

LAWMAKERS PUSH FOR BLACK HISTORY COMMISSION. [Roll Call](#) (2/11, 126K) reports that "Virginia lawmakers gathered Thursday morning to make their case for a federal commission on African-American history, pointing out Congress has supported similar bodies to study English and Hispanic history." Rep. Don Beyer Jr. "joined fellow Virginia Democrats Rep. Robert C. Scott and Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine in supporting legislation to establish a commission to organize programs in 2019 that would commemorate the history of African-Americans in the U.S., timed with the 400th anniversary of the first African slaves arriving in Virginia in 1619." According to the legislation's text, "the commission would be comprised of 15 people chosen with input from the Virginia government, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, civil rights and historical organizations, the National Park Service, members of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution."

IDAHO RESIDENTS SEEK NATIONAL PARK STATUS FOR CRATERS OF THE MOON. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (2/11, Gray, 74K) reports that Idaho residents are seeking to change Craters of the Moon National Monument's status to that of a National Park in an effort to attract more tourists to the area. The News says that the move "might have a change" because its "varied landscape" and "robust ecosystem" make it a strong candidate for national park status.

JUDGE: "IDLING" IS NOT "PARKING." The [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Shapira, 8.98M) reports that a federal judge in Alexandria reversed 15 National Park Service parking citations issued to Virginia taxi driver Yahia Fayed on Thursday for parking at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. The judge said that because Fayed was in his car with the engine on when the citations were issued, he was not technically parked, and therefore was not in violation of rules prohibiting parking there.

YOSEMITE PLANS MARCH 1 CONCESSIONAIRE TRANSITION. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/11, Reynolds, 4.1M) reports that Yosemite Hospitality will take over Yosemite National Park concessions from DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite Inc. on March 1st. The Times says both sides are "committed to a seamless transition."

NPS ANNOUNCES VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELD GRANTS. The [AP](#) (2/12, Press, 8.98M) reports that the NPS says "\$5.3 million in preservation funding is heading to 17 Civil War battlefields, primarily in Virginia." The agency says "the federal dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund will help preserve 1,640 battlefield acres in six other states besides Virginia."

GETTYSBURG MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING AS A NATIONAL PARK. The [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Wheeler, 8.98M) reports that Gettysburg National Park is "celebrating its founding as a national park on Feb. 11, 1895." According to the article, "on that date, the Gettysburg National Park Commission announced the battlefield had become a national park and took over the effort to preserve a large portion of the battlefield from the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, which had been founded in 1864 and had saved 600 acres." The Gettysburg National Military Park, "as it known today, has released a number of historic photographs, with extensive captions, to mark the anniversary."

WREATH-LAYING TO MARK 207TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S BIRTH. The [AP](#) (2/12, Press, 8.98M) reports that the 207th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth will be marked with "a wreath-laying at the Lincoln Memorial." The NPS says "a variety of government officials and organizations will present wreaths during the ceremony at noon on Friday." According to the article, "the Military District of Washington will provide a color guard, and there will also be a musical program."

THREE ASSATEAGUE ISLAND MARES EXPECTING SPRING FOALS. [USA Today](#) (2/11, Chappell, 5.56M) reports that three of mares at Assateague Island National Seashore Mares are expecting foals between April and June. Park staff dart some horses with a birth control vaccine and leave others untreated in order to regulate population on the island.

JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL PARK REMOVES AGE RESTRICTIONS. [KNBN-TV](#) Rapid City, SD (2/12, Horvatin, 33) reports that Jewel Cave National Monument has made major renovations to the walk paths inside the cave, and will be removing age restrictions put in place following accidents involving small children last year.

FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE SUPERINTENDENT SAYS ROBBINS REST NEEDS EMERGENCY DUNE. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (2/11, 1.23M) reports that "Robbins Rest on Fire Island will need emergency dune repairs because powerful storms earlier this week caused significant erosion in that area, a

federal official said Thursday." Chris Soller, superintendent of the Fire Island National Seashore, "This was a major nor'easter — there were some pretty high waves." The NPS is "working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and state and local officials to build a protective dune in Robbins Rest as quickly as possible, Soller said."

GROUP OF HUMAN SCAVENGERS LIVING OFF LAND IN YELLOWSTONE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication) reports that "eight people have spent the past few winters living off the land in Yellowstone National Park for a month, collecting scraps of hunted buffalo and teaching themselves the traditional skills to make use of those parts." Katie Russell, a founder of the group called the Buffalo Bridge Project, "first saw a buffalo butchered four years ago and was fascinated by the process." Russell "received a grant to camp for a month during the following buffalo-hunting season, then turned to Indiegogo to raise funds." According to the article, "from their camp in Gardiner Basin, the scavengers often help state or tribal hunters haul their kills to their vehicles, asking for nothing in return but sometimes receiving scraps to use."

LAWSUIT TARGETS CATTLE GRAZING AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Additional coverage that "a group of environmentalists is suing to stop thousands of cattle from continuing to graze" at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/11, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/11, 285K), and the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (2/12, Rogers, 648K).

Top National News:

OBAMA: "VERY CONFIDENT" OF "STRONG LEGAL FOOTING" ON CLEAN POWER PLAN. President Obama made his first public comments on Thursday about the Supreme Court's decision to suspend implementation of the Clean Power Plan, saying he is confident the measures will pass the legal challenges. The limited media coverage highlights that in his comments, at a California fundraiser, Obama stressed the court's action is meant to allow the legal process to play out rather than rule against the legality of the regulations.

The [AP](#) (2/11, Superville) reports Obama indicated "he is very confident" the Clean Power Plan will survive current legal challenges. [Reuters](#) (2/11, Mason, Volcovici) reports that while Obama said while the Supreme Court's decision to stay implementation of the measures was "unusual," the Administration is "very confident that we're on strong legal footing here." After saying some people have incorrectly commented that the court had struck down the Clean Power Plan, Obama said, "That's not true. So don't despair, people." Obama said, according to [The Hill](#) (2/11, Henry, 862K), the court's decision "says, 'Hold on until we review the legality.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Mufson, 8.98M) reports Obama explained the Supreme Court has previously required the EPA to regulate emissions if they are shown to have a negative impact on public health. The President said, "The centerpiece of our climate action plan involves working with states like California to come up with a strategy for reducing their carbon emissions." Obama added, "We do so under the Clean Air Act, which the Supreme Court says requires the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon emissions if we can show, as science has clearly shown, damage to public health."

[CNN](#) (2/11, Malloy, 3.96M) reported on its website Obama said the effort to combat climate control "is going to be an enormous generational challenge." The President added, "There are going to be people constantly pushing back and making sure we keep clinging to old dirty fuels and a carbon-emitting economic strategy that we need to be moving away from." [TIME](#) (2/11, Rhodan, 18.01M) quotes Obama as saying, "We need to be investing in the future, not the past," adding, "We should be investing in solar and wind and battery technology — all the things that promise us we can generate enormous power without destroying the planet for our kids and grandkids."

McCarthy: Stay Is Not A Defeat Of Clean Power Plan. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports EPA Administrator McCarthy also made her first public comments about the court's decision on Thursday and, like Obama, stressed it does not represent a defeat of the program. McCarthy said, "It is a pause in terms of the implementation and enforcement of the Clean Power Plan." Later when speaking at a National Association of Energy Officials conference, McCarthy said that during the stay, the Administration will "be doing some things, making sure we get our arms around the decision and make really sound choices."

Albright Court Brief Indicated Stay Could Cause Irreversible Harm To International Climate Deal. The [Washington Times](#) (2/11, Boyer, 285K) reports former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "has said a Supreme Court order temporarily halting" the Clean Power Plan "could derail President Obama's cherished global

climate change agreement." In a federal court brief filed in December, Albright wrote a stay "would likely cast doubt on the ability of the United States to achieve domestic emission reductions and lead other nations to delay implementing emission reductions." Albright added, "Such a loss of momentum could quickly snowball, causing more nations to signal their intent to delay. If the loss of momentum were great enough, it could not be repaired even following a decision on the merits upholding the Clean Power Plan."

Jackson: Final Decision On Clean Power Plan Will Have "Global Reach." In a [Boston Globe](#) (2/11, 1.05M) column, Derrick Jackson says while the Supreme Court may view the Clean Power Plan as "a mere matter of domestic government overreach," the "world is looking to the plan as a key symbol of American credibility in the Paris climate agreement." Jackson adds, "Whatever the justices ultimately decide, their ruling will have global reach."

RYAN EXPECTS BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO PROVIDE ZIKA FUNDING. [The Hill](#) (2/11, Sullivan, 862K) reports House Speaker Ryan said Thursday that he expects "some kind of bipartisan action" to approve that funding. House Minority Leader Pelosi said that she also believes the funding effort "will be bipartisan, hopefully noncontroversial, as we go forward to meet the president's request."

Officials Urge Lawmakers To Approve New Zika Funding, Without Repurposing Ebola Money. [USA Today](#) (2/11, Kelly, 5.56M) reports health officials – including CDC Director Frieden, the NIH's Anthony Fauci, and HHS Secretary Burwell – "urge[d] lawmakers to approve" new emergency funding to battle Zika rather than taking it from existing Ebola funds. Frieden told a Senate appropriations subcommittee that repurposing the money would "risk letting down our guard on Ebola (if the funds are diverted to Zika)."

Link Between Zika, Birth Defects Growing. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/11, story 3, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported the suspected link between the virus and microcephaly "has been strengthened within the past day by reports both in Brazil and the United States" as the virus was found in the brain tissue of newborns with microcephaly who died. Furthermore, the [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Sun, 8.98M) reports that two US women who contracted Zika while abroad miscarried after returning home, "and the virus was found in their placentas," according to a CDC spokesman on Thursday. Researchers in Salvador, Brazil are also probing "some miscarriages and still births" at three maternity hospitals for possible links to the virus. The Post also mentioned that Frieden testified Wednesday that one US case of Guillain-Barré syndrome may be linked to Zika.

Another [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Phillips, Miroff, 8.98M) report adds that in Colombia, authorities last week said three Zika-infected patients died from Guillain-Barré. Meanwhile, Brazil's health ministry on Thursday announced a third fatality linked to Zika after a 20-year-old woman whose death was registered as pneumonia had Zika show up in blood samples. Brazilian researchers say the patient's respiratory problems "were unusual," for Zika, so other factors may have contributed to her death.

CDC Providing Zika Tests To Health Clinics For Pregnant Women. The [AP](#) (2/11, Neergaard) reports Frieden told Senate members that the CDC has shipped 62,000 Zika tests for pregnant women to health departments around the US, but warned there "may be a period of weeks or a couple of months where there aren't enough tests for the women who want to have them done."

Frieden Warns Of Possible Increase In Puerto Rico Zika Cases. Rehema Ellis reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/11, story 5, 2:00, Holt, 7.86M) that CDC Director Tom Frieden testified before the Senate Thursday, where he said, "At some point we may well see tens or hundreds of thousands of Zika infections in Puerto Rico."

YELLEN STILL EXPECTS INTEREST RATE INCREASES THIS YEAR. In her second day of her semiannual testimony to Congress, Federal Reserve Chair Yellen on Thursday told the Senate Banking Committee that while global economic developments do pose risks to the US economy, it is too soon to tell if those risks are great enough to change the Fed's policies on interest rates. The [AP](#) (2/11, Crutsinger) reports Yellen said the central bank will determine at its March meeting "how much economic weakness and falling markets around the world have hamstrung US-growth." This, after she testified Wednesday that "global pressures could depress the US economy's growth and slow the pace of Fed rate hikes." [Reuters](#) (2/11, Dunsmuir, Spicer) says Yellen reiterated her assertion that Fed policy is not on a "pre-set path," but said she still anticipates it will gradually raise interest rates this year.

The [New York Times](#) (2/11, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) likewise says Yellen "spent several minutes... assuring the Senate Banking Committee that the Fed wasn't planning to reverse course and cut rates." While Yellen "said the Fed still planned to raise rates gradually," she "didn't try to convince investors that

the Fed still might increase rates at its next meeting, in March.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/11, Puzanghera, 4.1M) reports Yellen “tried to keep all options on the table while waiting for more data about the recent market anxiety’s effects on the US economy,” and “refused to be pinned down on whether Fed policymakers would enact another small increase to the so-called federal funds rate at their next meeting in March.” The Times describes Yellen as “cautiously optimistic about the US economy, though she said recent strong increases in hourly earnings indicated only ‘tentative’ evidence that sluggish wage growth was improving.”

Shelby Questions Fed Authority To Impose Negative Interest Rates. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/11, Boesler, 2.92M) reports that after Yellen told the panel the Fed was re-examining cutting interest rates below zero “as a policy option if the economy faltered,” and said “she wasn’t aware of any law that would prevent the Fed” from doing so, Chairman Richard Shelby said in an interview, “The Fed generally interprets the law to their advantage. ... We will have our counsel look into it. That’s the question. I would doubt it, but I haven’t personally checked it.”

First-Time Unemployment Claims Fall More Than Expected. The Labor Department reported Thursday that initial jobless claims fell 16,000 to 269,000 last week. Economists had expected about 280,000 new claims, [Bloomberg News](#) (2/11, Jamrisko, 2.92M) reports. The four week moving average, which eliminates some volatility, fell 3,500 to 281,250. Bloomberg News adds hiring managers “demonstrated confidence in the outlook after temporary adjustments around the holidays.” While new hires will probably slow in 2016 “as the labor market makes it tougher to attract skilled workers, employers are showing little appetite to reduce headcounts.” Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. economist Brett Ryan said, “The labor market thus far seems to be on a good track. As you approach full employment, job growth is supposed to slow. So that’s one important part of this.”

[Reuters](#) (2/11, Mutikani) says the jobless claims report shows the labor market remains sound despite volatility in the stock markets and slowing growth. MUFJ Union Bank economist Chris Rupkey said, “The economy might be sailing into a storm, the financial markets say, but if so, the U.S. economy is in a very strong position to weather whatever comes, with the labor market the strongest in decades.” The [AP](#) (2/11, Boak) reports US employers “still appear to expecting the economy to grow – and a need for more workers.” The domestic economy “appears to have withstood the pressures created by a slowing Chinese economy, fragile growth in Europe and a meltdown in developing economies such as Brazil, Russia and Venezuela.”

Stocks Finished Lower Thursday. Stocks declined Thursday amid what the [AP](#) (2/11) says were growing “concerns about global economic weakness.” The Dow fell 254.56 points to 15,660.18. The S&P 500 finished 22.78 points lower at 1,829.08. The Nasdaq lost 16.76 points to end the day at 4,266.84. The [Washington Post](#) (2/11, Ehrenfreund, Mui, 8.98M) says stocks “slipped deeper into the red Thursday afternoon” as they “track[ed] a sell-off in global markets,” and [Bloomberg News](#) (2/11, Costa, 2.92M) notes that investors are “shunning risk worldwide.” A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Stubbington, Patrick, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) notes bank stocks led the growing selloff as investors say the decision by central banks in Europe and Japan to use negative interest rates to foster growth are among the concerns undercutting bank stocks worldwide.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial sees a disconnect between Yellen, who testified that the economy is relatively strong and investors, who continued to sell off equities. According to the Journal, while Yellen and the Fed staff view the 4.9% jobless rate and indications of rising wages as evidence interest rates should be increased, markets see other indications the world economy is weakening.

WSJournal Analysis: Markets Could Spur Recession. A front-page analysis in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, A1, Ip, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says while the economic data do not show signs of recession, the markets indicate the nation is headed that way. The Journal says markets can, in some circumstances, spur recession because they can signal whether businesses should invest or hire. As a result, recession fears can become self-fulfilling.

Nine Out Of 10 US Gas Stations Selling Gas Below \$2 Per Gallon. [ABC World News](#) (2/11, story 8, 1:05, Jarvis, 5.84M) reported “nine out of ten gas stations around the country are selling gas below two dollars a gallon and its suspected prices will continue to fall from here.” While “this is great news for consumers, now paying the lowest amount for gas in more than a decade,” it has been “a big problem for energy companies, and energy jobs and we have seen the ripple effect into stocks, as well.”

WPost’s Ehrenfreund: Lawmakers Representing Americans’ Political Divisions. In a piece for the

[Washington Post](#) (2/11, 8.98M) "Wonkblog" blog, Max Ehrenfreund wrote that the President, in his speech in Illinois this week, lamented "the profound shifts in American politics that have made congressional dealmaking all but impossible," and "offered remedies: new rules on campaign finance and redistricting," but "research in political science gives reason to doubt the effectiveness of those solutions." Americans' "political divisions have intensified," Ehrenfreund argues, adding that Americans "are bitterly divided on a range of issues, and their legislators are faithfully representing their constituents."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "**A Chance To Halt The Brutality In Syria.**" A [New York Times](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says the agreement between the US and Russia "to deliver desperately needed humanitarian aid to besieged Syrian cities, followed by at least a temporary cessation of hostilities" is "good news" for the Syrian people, but adds that for the agreement "to be anything more durable than a temporary and fragile respite will depend on further peace talks." While the "resumption of aid and a temporary halt in the fighting could well turn out to be the first step on a longer road to peace," it will "require a real transformation by [Russian President Vladimir] Putin and the continued application of diplomatic pressure by the United States and its partners."

"Ferguson Turns Its Back On Justice." A [New York Times](#) (2/12, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial welcomes a lawsuit filed this week by DOJ's Civil Rights Division against Ferguson, which it calls a "necessary step" after the city rejected "a painstakingly negotiated plan for overhauling the city's racist policing." The Times says Ferguson officials "must be gambling that the Civil Rights Division will back down," and "it shouldn't. That would send a terrible message, not just to Ferguson but to outlaw police departments all over the country."

"Karl Rove Bamboozles The IRS." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/12, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) calls the IRS' decision to grant Crossroads GPS tax-exempt status as "social welfare" organization a "farfical abuse of common sense and the American taxpayer." The Times says the "ludicrous" designation "means it can keep its deep-pocketed campaign donors secret."

WASHINGTON POST. "**Maryland Democrats' Plan For Matching College Savings Grants Is Welfare For The Wealthy.**" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/11, 8.98M) decries a proposal from Maryland Democratic leaders "to offer matching grants for college savers with incomes up to \$225,000," calling it "over-the-top and out of line with benefits offered by other states." The Post question why Maryland, "whose median household income is \$76,165, subsidize residents whose incomes are triple that amount."

"Prepare For The Worst: Venezuela Is Heading Toward Complete Disaster." A [Washington Post](#) (2/11, 8.98M) editorial says Venezuela "is facing an economic collapse and a humanitarian disaster," and "the government of President Nicolás Maduro appears paralyzed." While "leaders of the opposition's new parliamentary majority, who are locked in a public power struggle with the regime, are said to be negotiating with it behind the scenes," a "pact between the two sides on emergency measures, coupled with an appeal to the IMF," does not appear likely "which is why its neighbors, and the United States, should be preparing for an implosion."

"The Government Should Get Out Of The Air Traffic Control Business." An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (2/11, 8.98M) argues in favor of a plan to take air traffic control away from the FAA in favor of a private entity. The Post cites examples of other countries "turning away from this statist model" and notes that in all of them, "safety and innovation have stayed the same or improved."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "**Yellen And The Markets.**" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial sees a disconnect between Federal Reserve Chairwoman Yellen, who testified that the economy is relatively strong, and investors, who continued to sell off equities. According to the Journal, while Yellen and the Fed staff view the 4.9% jobless rate and indications of rising wages as evidence interest rates should be increased, markets see other indications the world economy is weakening.

"Internet Tax Freedom – At Last." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) calls the Senate's passage of a permanent extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act and the President's intent to sign it welcome news that will help encourage economic growth.

"China's Biotech Play." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/11, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says if

ChemChina's bid to buy the Swiss chemical and biotech company Syngenta goes through it could lower Beijing's opposition to genetically modified crops and increase its intellectual property protections.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

- Banks Drop As Global Rout Deepens
- Risk Grows Of Markets Sparking Recession
- Clinton's Wall Street Talks Were Highly Paid, Friendly
- World Powers Agree To Cease-Fire In Syria

New York Times:

- Clinton Paints Sanders Plans As Unrealistic
- Long In Clinton's Corner, Blacks Notice Sanders
- Last Occupier In Rural Oregon Is Coaxed Out
- With Faint Chirp, Scientists Prove Einstein Correct
- Lawmaker's Hedge Fund Intrudes On Day Job
- Officer Is Convicted In Fatal Stairwell Shooting

Washington Post:

- Fault Line Spotlited In Wis. Debate
- US, Russia Agree To A Halt In Syrian War
- Cosmic Breakthrough: Physicists Detect Gravitational Waves From Violent Black-Hole Merger
- Oregon Siege Ends As Four Surrender
- Ex-Wife's Tip Led To Gunfire At Md. Panera

Financial Times:

- Day Of Turmoil As Negative Rates Strike Fear Into Global Markets
- Huge Explosion In A Galaxy Far, Far Away Confirms Einstein's Space-Time Theory

Washington Times:

- SC Democratic Party Chairman's Ties To Clinton Camp Raise Fairness Questions
- National Guard Fraud Claims Taint Recruiting Assistants As Top Brass Escapes Accountability
- Kazakhs Studying Abroad In Ambitious 'Freedom' Program Aim To Lift Former Soviet Republic
- Democrats Demand Government-funded Lawyers For Illegals
- More Arrests, Indictments Follow Dramatic Surrender Of Final Oregon Holdouts

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Weather Forecast; Oregon Standoff Ends; Georgia-Major Prison Scandal; New York Gas Explosion; Storm-Damaged Cruise Ship; Gas Prices; IRS Agent Arrested; Bill Cosby Case; Gravity Waves Discovery; California-House Fire Rescue.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Zika Virus-Summer Olympics; Oregon Standoff Ends; CIA Director Interviewed-ISIL Arsenal; Syrian Civil War-Refugees; Syria-Ceasefire Talks; Tamir Rice Shooting-Mayor Apology; Gravity Waves Discovery; Georgia-TSA Training Academy; Maryland-Mount Saint Mary's University Controversy.

NBC: Oregon Standoff Ends; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Weather Forecast; Zika Virus-Summer Olympics; California-Methane Gas Leak Stopped; Syrian Civil War-Refugees; Storm-Damaged Cruise Ship; Congressman Protests Vaporizer Measure; Gravity Waves Discovery; NASA Hiring New Astronauts.

Network TV At A Glance:

- 2016 Politics – 15 minutes, 25 seconds
- Oregon Standoff Ends – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
- Syrian Civil War-Refugees – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
- Zika Virus-Summer Olympics – 4 minutes, 10 seconds
- Storm-Damaged Cruise Ship – 3 minutes, 15 seconds
- Weather Forecast – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
- Gravity Waves Discovery – 1 minute, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**ABC:** 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Air Traffic Controller Report.**CBS:** 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Wall Street; Oregon Standoff Ends.**FOX:** 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter, Oregon Standoff Ends; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; Wall Street; Congress-Trans-Pacific Partnership; Myspace Sold.**NPR:** 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Syria-Ceasefire Agreement; North Korea Rocket Launch-South Korea Response; New York-Police Officer Convicted Of Manslaughter; California-Methane Gas Leak Stopped; West Virginia Chemical Spill-Mining Executive Sentenced; Uber Settles Class-Action Lawsuit.**Washington Schedule:****TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House:**

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Barack Obama travels to Palm Springs, CA, where he remains overnight.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 10:30 AM 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' Congressional briefing – 'The State of America's Working Class and Economy' briefing, on the state of the nation's working class and what can be done to address a rising level of family and economic instability, sponsored by bipartisan Sens. Tim Scott and Bob Casey and co-hosted by The American Academy of Political and Social Science and The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Social policy experts Johns Hopkins University Professor of Public Policy Andrew Cherlin, Brookings Institution Center on Children and Families co-director Ron Haskins, Princeton University Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs Sara McLanahan, and Harvard University Professor of Public Policy Robert Putnam present evidence on the current state of American families, marriage, mobility, and child well-being, and examine what has been called 'the fall of the working class'. Location: Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.aapss.org> <https://twitter.com/TheAAPSS>. Contacts: AAPSS 1 215 746 6500.**US House:** 8:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Air Force FY'17 budget – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Air Force 2017 Budget Request and Readiness', with testimony from US Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Gen. John Raymond, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering, and Force Protection Lt. Gen. John Cooper. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.amedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.9:00 AM House expected to debate Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 2017, the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015' * Administration has said it opposes the bill, saying it would 'undercut the objective of providing clear, consistent calorie information to consumers'. Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>. Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating biological threats – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Outbreaks, Attacks, and Accidents: Combating Biological Threats', with testimony from Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense members Donna Shalala and James Greenwood; In-Q-Tel Senior Fellow and Executive Vice President Tara O'Toole; and Texas A&M University Center for Innovation in Advanced Development and Manufacturing Associate Vice President for Public Health Preparedness and Response Dr. Gerald Parker. Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>. Contacts: House Energy and Commerce Committee 1 202 225 2927.9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA IG budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Office of the Inspector General', with testimony from USDA Inspector General Phyllis Fong, Assistant Inspector General for Audits Gil Harden, and Acting 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>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Afghan national security forces – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Assessing the Development of Afghanistan National Security Forces’, with testimony from Defense Intelligence Agency Senior Defense Analyst – Afghanistan Kent Breedlove; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia Christine Abizaid; Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Pakistan Afghanistan and Transregional Threats Coordination Cell Deputy Director Col. Stephen Michael; Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko; and Department of Defense Deputy Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations Michael Child. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

Other: Feb. 12 – Feb. 15 6:30 AM AAAS Annual Meeting continues – American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting continues. Day two agenda includes sessions on: New and Emerging Tobacco Products: Biomarkers of Exposure and Injury; Refugee Migrations; Using Humor to Address Serious Topics; Food Shocks: The Impact of Simultaneous Extreme Events on Global Food Systems; Grand Visions for the Future of US Science in a New Global Era; Lessons from the Ebola Outbreak: Designing Vaccine Trials for Emerging Diseases; Living with Earthquakes: Causes, Early Warning, and Damage Mitigation; Improving Cancer Patient Care: Trade-Offs Between Efficacy and Toxicity; Where Did Most of the Universe Go? Searching for Dark Matter. Speakers include National Park Service Science Advisor to the Director Gary Machlis. Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC <http://meetings.aaas.org/> <https://twitter.com/AAASMeetings> #AAASmtg. Contacts: AAAS meetings@aaas.org 1 202 326 6450 Gavin Stern AAAS gstern@aaas.org 1 202 326 6429.

Feb. 12 – Feb. 13 8:00 AM National Association of Secretaries of State Winter Conference continues – National Association of Secretaries of State Winter Conference and awards continues. Day three speakers include Washington Post ‘The Fix’ Editor Chris Cillizza, Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortes, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman, West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, Center for Technology and Civic Life Co-Founder Tiana Epps Johnson, Democracy Works Director of Government Services Monica Crane Childers, USAGov Director Sarah Crane, US Election Assistance Commission Commissioner Matthew Masterson, and US Communities General Manager Chris Robb. Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.nass.org/> <https://twitter.com/NASSInfo>. Contacts: Kay Stimson NASS communications nass@ssso.org 1 202 624 3528.

8:00 AM Wreath-laying at the Lincoln Memorial to mark Abraham Lincoln’s birthday – US Armed Forces will conduct a Presidential Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial in honor of Abraham Lincoln, to mark the 207th anniversary of his birth. Location: Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/JFHQNCR_MDW. Contacts: Shaunteh Kelly US Army Military District of Washington shaunteh.d.kelly.civ@mail.mil. Space is limited to standing room only. Attendees are encouraged to be at the Lincoln Memorial no later than 7:15 a.m.

2:00 PM Ribbon-cutting ceremony for new American University Washington College of Law campus – American University Washington College of Law hosts ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new campus, featuring US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser as keynotes, and other attendees including AU President Neil Kerwin, Washington College of Law Dean Claudio Grossman, Dean’s Advisory Council Members Kenneth Lore and Stephen Weinstein, and Student Bar Association President Amanda Molina. Location: American University Washington College of Law, 4300 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC www.american.edu/media <https://twitter.com/auwcl>. Contacts: Maria Mikey American University Washington College of Law mmikey@wcl.american.edu 1 202 274 42 76.

3:00 PM OAS launches ‘Caring for our Common Home from the Judiciary’ initiative – Organization of American States launches new ‘Caring for our Common Home from the Judiciary: Guaranteeing More Rights for More People in the Americas’ initiative, which aims to enhance and strengthen the role of justice in environmental protection, based on the idea that ‘protecting Planet Earth is offering ‘More rights for more people’, and that it is a common responsibility of lawmakers, parliamentarians, judges, lawyers, attorneys, and, ultimately, the people’. It will focus on training judges, creating an operating model for the judiciary, involving the judiciary in the celebration of International Mother Earth Day, and developing a portal on the state of environmental laws in the Americas. As part of the launch, OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro designates five ministers and/or presidents of courts of justice of the region as Goodwill Ambassadors for Environmental Justice in the Americas. Location: OAS, 17th St and Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.oas.org> https://twitter.com/OAS_official. Contacts: OAS press oaspress@oas.org 1 202 458 3320.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: “[President] Obama is in town [referring to Los Angeles] for a couple of fundraisers, which – why does he still need money? He does know he can’t run again, right? Why is he raising funds? Does he need money for cigarettes?”

Jimmy Fallon: “In his victory speech after the New Hampshire primary, Donald Trump claimed the unemployment rate might actually be as high as 42 percent. He might be right, because Hillary [Clinton] just fired her entire campaign staff.”

Jimmy Fallon: “It’s been a rough week for Hillary after Bernie Sanders won the New Hampshire primary by more than 20 points. Bernie said he’s always liked New Hampshire, especially because he was around when it was still Old Hampshire.”

Jimmy Fallon: “A new poll released this week shows that two-thirds of Canadians fear a Donald Trump presidency, especially one Canadian in particular [referring to Sen. Ted Cruz].”

Jimmy Fallon: “Before winning the Republican primary in New Hampshire, it seemed like Donald Trump was really going after Jeb Bush. Did you feel that way? In fact, he recently made fun of Jeb Bush for having his mom help him with his campaign. This is real. This is an actual tweet from Trump. It said, ‘Wow, Jeb Bush, whose campaign is a total disaster, had to bring in mommy to take a slap at me. Not nice.’ As you can imagine, Barbara Bush wasn’t too happy about it. She decided to respond with her own tweet. ‘Hey, T-bag, you got something to say, say it to my face, #RealTalk, #Bushwhack.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “I want to say Happy 63rd Birthday to Jeb Bush. Happy Birthday, Jeb. In honor of his big day, a lot of people wrote on his Facebook wall. Check out what they posted. First up, Donald Trump wrote, ‘You call this a wall? This is a sorry excuse for a wall.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “After that, Bernie Sanders wrote, ‘Maybe you should focus less on your birthday and more on sharing your cake with the 99 percent of Americans who don’t have a birthday today.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Next up, Marco Rubio wrote, ‘Happy Birthday. Hope it’s a good one. Happy Birthday. Hope it’s a good one. Happy Birthday. Hope it’s a good one.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “And finally, Ben Carson wrote, ‘I’m standing outside with a present for you. Just call my name when you want me to walk in and I’ll definitely walk over.’”

Seth Meyers: “Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders earlier tonight faced off in a debate on PBS, or as PBS calls it, ‘Antiques Roadshow.’”

Seth Meyers: “Chris Christie announced yesterday that he’s dropping out of the presidential race. Christie said he’s not sure what he’ll do now, and then someone reminded him he’s still the governor of New Jersey.”

Seth Meyers: “Bernie Sanders, yesterday, had breakfast in Harlem with the Rev. Al Sharpton. Interesting. Usually when an old white guy goes out to Harlem, it’s because he fell asleep on the train.”

Seth Meyers: “Former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg recently ran two national polls to gauge interest for his possible presidential campaign. You’re still gauging? Buddy, the two hottest candidates are the Jewish guy and the billionaire. Do you need an engraved invitation?”

Seth Meyers: “Marco Rubio has revealed that he cracked his molar while eating a Twix bar yesterday. Twix, of course, is Rubio’s favorite candy bar, because you get to eat the same thing twice.”

Conan O’Brien: “Ben Carson said he’s open to being Donald Trump’s vice president. Makes sense. Carson could deliver Trump the black Republican vote, which consists of Ben Carson.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, July 31, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Interior Holds Listening Session On Federal Coal Program.](#)
- + [Isleta Pueblos Taking Over Elementary School.](#)
- + [BLM Announces Appointments To Wyoming Resource Advisory Council.](#)
- + [Satellite Provides Data For Firefighters.](#)
- + [Critics: Administration Climate Change Policy Driven By Outside Groups.](#)
- + [Droughts May Have Longer Lasting Effects On Forests.](#)
- + [Blog: Climate Change Constitutes A National Security Risk.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Secretary Jewell' Visit To Guam.](#)
- + [Op-Ed: Basin & Range Monument Designation Intended To Thwart Possible Yucca Mountain Rail Route.](#)
- + [Columnist Defends Construction Of Thirty Meter Telescope On Mauna Kea.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Assistant Secretary Washburn Says State, Cities, Can't Force Tribes To Collect Taxes.](#)
- + [Senate Panel Seeks To Fix Problems From Carcieri Ruling.](#)
- + [Senate Committee Approves Energy Reform Package.](#)
- + [Rosebud Sioux Tribe Contests BIE Plans For Restructuring.](#)
- + [Thirteen Problems Facing Native People Listed.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of White House Tribal Youth Gathering.](#)
- + [Alaska Urged To Work Together With Native Communities.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Federal Agencies Confirm Presence Of Algae Toxins In Upper Klamath.](#)
- + [California's Urban Areas Successfully Cutting Water Use.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [First Off-Shore US Wind Farm Begins Construction.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Natural Gas Environmental And Economic Security Act Introduced.](#)
- + [Craig Holds Meeting On Colowyo Coal Mine.](#)
- + [Court To Hear Arguments In Case Challenging Expansion Of Spring Creek Coal Mine.](#)
- + [Wastewater Wells Cause Controversy Over Oklahoma Earthquakes.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Icebreaker Passes Environmentalist Blockade; Sails For Arctic.](#)
- + [Sen. Nelson Vows All Means Necessary To Block Drilling Bill.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Announces New Leader For National Conservation Lands Program.](#)
- + [Wyoming, Montana Wants Changes To BLM Sage Grouse Plan.](#)
- + [BLM Could Change How Permits For The Wave Are Given.](#)
- + [BLM Drops Claims To Mosquito Fork.](#)
- + [Land Owner Claims Victory In Red Rive Border Dispute.](#)
- + [Judge Denies Bid To Stall Planned Mustang Roundup At Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range.](#)
- + [BLM Delivers Firewood To Tribes, Seniors.](#)
- + [Company Revises Plan For Layout Of Eastern Oregon Gold Mine.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS Launching Probe Of Lion's Killing.](#)
- + [Five Elephants Poached In Kenya.](#)
- + [NRA Opposes Proposed Ban On Ivory Trade.](#)
- + [Scientists Urge FWS To Ban Salamander Imports.](#)
- + [Group's "State Of The Trout" Report Details Threats To America's Coldwater Fisheries.](#)
- + [Drought Raises Concerns About Wild Salmon.](#)
- + [Environmentalist Drop Lawsuit Against Mad River Hatchery.](#)
- + [Court Rejects Lawsuit Over Tortoises' Protection.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Confederate Flags Placed On MLK Historic Site In Atlanta.](#)
- + [NPS Looks To Maintain Ban On Sales Of Bottled Water.](#)
- + [NPS, Northwestern State University Sign Cooperative Agreement.](#)
- + [NPS Planning Canoe-sharing Service Along Mississippi.](#)
- + [University Of Georgia Receives Grant From NPs Through National Maritime Heritage Grant Program.](#)
- + [Federal Agencies, Tribes Collaborate On Grand Canyon's Desert View Watchtower.](#)
- + [Archaeologists At Grand Teton National Park Find Artifact Trove Near Moose-Wilson Road.](#)
- + [Shrinking Lake Mead Reveals Lost Wild West Town.](#)
- + [NPS Seeks Public Comment On Ideas For Solving Traffic Congestion In Area Parks.](#)
- + [Paper Supports Creation Of Manhattan Project National Historic Park.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Support National Parks With Adequate Funding.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS Invests Another \\$4 Million In Earthquake Early Warning System.](#)
- + [New Online USGS Tool Tracks Nutrients, Sediment In Waterways Across Nation.](#)
- + [Endangered Pallid Sturgeon Larvae Found In Missouri River.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama, Biden Continue Push For Iran Deal.](#)
- + [Senate Passes Three-Month Highway Funding Bill.](#)
- + [GDP Grew At 2.3% Rate In 2nd Quarter.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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 HOLDS LISTENING SESSION ON FEDERAL COAL PROGRAM. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/31, 74K) reports that “top Interior Department officials got an earful in their first of five listening sessions on the future of the federal coal program, which produces about 40 percent of our nation’s coal.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “addressed the more than 100 people gathered for the listening session Wednesday in an ornate auditorium in one of the marble buildings that line Constitution Avenue.” The article notes that “most of the dozens of people who spoke at the Washington, D.C. event called on Interior to raise the royalty rates it charges so that taxpayers get a better return on coal.” And “many speakers went further, advocating that royalties should reflect the cost to society of climate change, since burning coal for electricity is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.” But “a handful of speakers – primarily representatives of the coal and utility industries – defended the current royalty rates, arguing that higher rates would stifle production and reduce revenues for federal, state and local government.”

Also providing coverage are [Politico](#) (7/29, Dixon, 942K) and [NJ Today](#) (7/31).

ISLETA PUEBLOS TAKING OVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. [KRQE-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (7/30, 36K) reports that “after more than a century, the federal government will be out when it comes to education,” and the Isleta Pueblo is “taking over the elementary school.” The article notes that “an official celebration will take place on the Isleta Reservation Saturday with a number of leaders marking the milestone, including U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.” Isleta Pueblo Governor E. Paul Torres said that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs and later the Bureau of Indian Education has run Isleta Elementary since the late 1800s, but after generations of students learning, now the tribe is taking over.”

BLM ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO WYOMING RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The [Casper \(WY\) Journal](#) (7/31, 80K) reports that the BLM “announced new appointments or reappointments of members to its citizen-based Wyoming Resource Advisory Council.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “By working with federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as leaders from industry and the conservation community, the BLM’s Resource Advisory Councils exemplify the department’s collaborative approach to public land issues. I want to welcome our newly appointed RAC members and salute them for their commitment to public service. Their counsel will well serve the BLM as we work to ensure the health and productivity of America’s public lands.”

SATELLITE PROVIDES DATA FOR FIREFIGHTERS. [Government Computer News](#) (7/30, 900) reports that “with the help of NASA, firefighters will be able to use satellite-based tools to better detect fires and predict their behavior.” According to the article, “with high-resolution data from the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (NPP) satellite, the Forest Service is using computer models to detect fires in more detail than ever before, and predict how a fire will change direction based on weather and land conditions.” The article notes that “the demand for timely, high-quality fire information has increased in recent years, as large fires have become more common and catastrophic.”

Additional coverage of various wildfires was provided by [USA Today](#) (7/30, Puckett, 4.95M), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/30, 10K), the [Green River \(WY\) Star](#) (7/29, 558), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/31, 1.07M), [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (7/31, 519), and [KNTV-TV San Jose \(CA\)](#) San Jose, CA (7/31, 150K).

CRITICS: ADMINISTRATION CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DRIVEN BY OUTSIDE GROUPS. The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Wolfgang, 344K) says that a “detailed report” from an EPA “critic,” the Energy and Environment Legal Institute, “charges” that the Administration’s “controversial climate change agenda is being driven largely by outside forces in the environmental community, and powerful activist groups have played a major — and perhaps illegal — role in crafting key” EPA policies. Emails obtained by EELI “show that powerful environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and others engaged in secret discussions with top administration officials.”

DROUGHTS MAY HAVE LONGER LASTING EFFECTS ON FORESTS. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Harvey, 6.76M) reports that according to a study published in the journal *Science*, droughts may cause “legacy effects,” damage to trees that last long after the drought has ended. Many current models on climate change assume that trees recover immediately after a drought, but William Anderegg, lead author of the study at Princeton University’s Environmental Institute, and colleagues argue that the previous assumption may be inaccurate. The study goes on to note that these long-term damages to trees may affect forests’ ability to absorb carbon that would otherwise end up in the atmosphere. [Reuters](#) (7/31, Arsenault) added that over the last hundred years, reduced carbon storage capacity in forests has resulted in an extra 1.6 million gigatonnes of CO₂ in the environment. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/31, Dussault, 455K) reports on the same study, adding that

Anderegg said, "With more intense and frequent droughts, forests could spend more time recovering, and trees may start dying en masse from drought, fire, and infestations." He goes on to argue that "the sooner and more effectively that we address climate change, the less risks that forests will face. This is absolutely crucial."

BLOG: CLIMATE CHANGE CONSTITUTES A NATIONAL SECURITY RISK. [The Hill](#) (7/31, 471K) reports in its "Congress Blog," that USMC Brig. Gen. Stephen Cheney (Ret.), of the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Policy Board, says that climate change "presents risk to the safety of both our nation and our world." Cheney also says that "threats of climate change include extreme weather, rising sea levels, reduced military capacity, and conditions that can enable worldwide violence and perpetuate terrorism." Cheney argues that for security reasons, among others, that "we need to prioritize reducing our carbon pollution [and] persuade other countries to do the same."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL' VISIT TO GUAM. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Guam was provided by the [Pacific News Center](#) (7/31).

OP-ED: BASIN & RANGE MONUMENT DESIGNATION INTENDED TO THWART POSSIBLE YUCCA MOUNTAIN RAIL ROUTE. In a commentary for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (7/30, 179K), author Stanley Paher and Dr. Tyrus W. Cobb, who served in the Reagan White House, write that at the "urging of Senator Harry Reid, the Interior Department announced the establishment of the Basin and Range National Monument in southeastern Nevada." There "is nothing special within this enormous 704,000 acre monument that differs it from eastern Nye, Elko and Humboldt counties." What the "designation does is halt mining development and prevents the construction of a proposed railroad to transport spent nuclear fuel to the Yucca repository." This "is the primary purpose behind Reid's actions." The monument was "created for just one reason: to serve as an obstacle to the reopening of the Yucca repository by closing off the proposed railroad route from west of Caliente to Yucca Mountain."

COLUMNIST DEFENDS CONSTRUCTION OF THIRTY METER TELESCOPE ON MAUNA KEA. In his column for the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (7/31, 41), Peter Apo writes that "the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea represents one of the greatest quests for knowledge in the history of mankind." According to Apo, "arguments that this project constitutes a grievous cultural and religious injury to Mauna Kea seem to fly in the face of historical practices by Hawaiians."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN SAYS STATE, CITIES, CAN'T FORCE TRIBES TO COLLECT TAXES. The [Countywide & Sun \(Tecumseh, OK\)](#) (7/31, 6K) reports that "the question of whether Native American tribes can be compelled to collect state and local taxes on Indian land emerged again this week — but this time the emphasis was on the side of the tribes." The Citizen Potawatomi Nation released a letter from Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs, that "flatly said 'improvements, leasehold interests and activities conducted on Indian trust land and restricted lands pursuant to a tribal lease' are exempt from state taxes." Washburn wrote, "We have determined that improvements, leasehold interests and activities conducted on Indian trust land and restricted lands pursuant to a tribal lease under approved HEARTH Act regulations, are exempt from state taxation due to federal pre-emption."

SENATE PANEL SEEKS TO FIX PROBLEMS FROM CARCIERI RULING. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Senate Indian Affairs Committee passed one bill and pulled another at a markup" Wednesday "as a bipartisan coalition attempted to remedy problems stemming from a controversial 2009 Supreme Court ruling on American Indian trust lands." According to the article, "Native Americans and lawmakers have been looking to fix the rules governing how the Department of the Interior takes land into trust for tribes, a process by which the federal government manages land for the benefit of officially recognized Native American groups."

Also reporting on the story is the [Law 360](#) (7/31, 21K).

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES ENERGY REFORM PACKAGE. [The Hill](#) (7/30, Cama, 471K) reports that "after three days of debate, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted" 18-4 "Thursday to approve its attempt at the first broad energy policy reform bill in eight years," the "Energy Policy Modernization Act." The bill "includes a number of policy priorities from both Republicans and Democrats," including "provisions to expedite projects to export liquefied natural gas, indefinitely authorize the federal government's main conservation fund, reform or remove outdated programs and better prepare the electric grid for modern needs,

among other policies.”

The [National Journal](#) (7/30, Plautz, Subscription Publication, 144K) notes that the committee also voted 12-10 along party lines for an amendment to “repeal a ban on crude-oil exports.” Chairwoman Lisa “Murkowski and other Republicans have said that lifting the ban is a necessity, given America’s booming oil output.” Oil industry groups expressed satisfaction over the measure, [Reuters](#) (7/31, Gardner, Volcovici) reports, and quotes the API’s Louis Finkel as saying, “Free trade in energy will allow America to harness the full economic opportunities created by our energy revolution.” [The Hill](#) (7/31, Cama, 471K) reports separately that Sen. Angus King (I-ME) dubbed the measure the “No Fossil Fuel Left Behind Act” for its focus on oil production. “I might be prepared to support it, but only if there’s a more balanced package of changes in the bill, for example, extension of the renewable credits for wind and solar, other kinds of environmental and renewable energy supports,” he said.

Additional coverage is available from the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, 213K).

ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE CONTESTS BIE PLANS FOR RESTRUCTURING. [Politico](#) (7/30, Emma, 942K) reports that “the Rosebud Sioux Tribe has filed a motion in U.S. district court that could complicate the Bureau of Indian Education’s plans for restructuring in the plains.” The bureau “hopes to adjust its organization with the goal of giving tribes more control over the schools, which serve Native students but are operated by the federal government.” However, “in a brief, the plaintiffs say BIE’s plans would violate a 2007 agreement that promises the federal agency will keep a minimum number of staff employed at certain offices in the Dakotas.”

THIRTEEN PROBLEMS FACING NATIVE PEOPLE LISTED. In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (7/31, 164K), Julian Brave NoiseCat lists “13 Issues Facing Native People Beyond Mascots And Casinos.” He says these are the “problems facing Native communities – insidious, systemic, life-or-death problems; the kinds of problems it takes years and votes and marches to resolve – that aren’t getting nearly as much attention.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL YOUTH GATHERING. Additional coverage of the White House Tribal Youth Gathering was provided by the [Pomerado News](#) (7/30, Sorensen, 90K).

ALASKA URGED TO WORK TOGETHER WITH NATIVE COMMUNITIES. In an op-ed for the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (7/30, 18K), Judge David Avraham Voluck and Sarah Deer, write that “the Alaska state public safety and justice systems — as far as Native communities are concerned — are clearly broken.” They criticize the State of Alaska for appealing “the Akiachak decision,” and securing “an injunction preventing the Department of the Interior’s regulations from taking effect in Alaska until resolution of the lengthy appeal process.” According to the authors, “once again we are witnessing an incessant litigation posture in opposite to tribal self-determination; once again we are witnessing the waste of precious time and resource, further imperiling life and limb.”

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

FEDERAL AGENCIES CONFIRM PRESENCE OF ALGAE TOXINS IN UPPER KLAMATH. The [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (7/30, 132K) reports that “the health advisory issued July 28 for Upper Klamath and Agency lakes because of elevated levels of toxins caused by a bloom of blue-green algae is being extended downstream to Keno Dam.” The article notes that “an additional sample collected from the Link River upstream from where it enters Lake Ewauna at the north end contains toxins at levels that could be harmful to health.” According to the article, “routine water monitoring by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation confirmed the presence of blue-green algae toxins called cyanotoxins at concentrations that can be harmful to humans and animals.”

CALIFORNIA’S URBAN AREAS SUCCESSFULLY CUTTING WATER USE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Morin, Stevens, 4.07M) reports that “despite record heat,” Californians managed to reduce urban water use by 27% in June and “demonstrated once again that they were on track to meet Gov. Jerry Brown’s historic 25% conservation order,” state water officials announced on Thursday. However, State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus “said she worried that residents might ease up on their efforts in anticipation of a potentially drenching El Niño season.”

[Securing America’s Energy Future:](#)

Renewable Energy:

FIRST OFF-SHORE US WIND FARM BEGINS CONSTRUCTION. The [ClimateWire](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that “construction began Sunday on the nation’s first offshore wind farm, 3 miles off the coast of Rhode Island.” According to the article, “workers started setting the steel foundation for the Rhode Island wind farm, near the 1,000-person tourist town of Block Island, this weekend.” Deepwater Wind, “the company behind the project, said the farm could provide power to 17,000 homes.”

The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (7/30, 305K) reports that “Deepwater is dealing with a construction mishap.” According to the article, “earlier this week, one of the barges being used in the project hit the latticework ‘jacket’ foundation that had been placed in the water and dented one of its four hollow, tubular legs.” It’s unknown “how the company will repair the foundation, which was set to be secured to the ocean floor with piles this week.” However, “Deepwater is not describing it as a major problem.”

In an editorial, the [Westerly \(RI\) Sun](#) (7/31, 28K) notes that “in a comment we found extremely interesting for an administration official,” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that “the renewable energy industry has to fight, regularly, to keep the tax credits and incentives it has, while the well-established oil and gas industry has tax credits it no longer needs.” Jewell said “that equation needs to change.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Economist](#) (7/31, 462K) and [Electric Light & Power](#) (7/31).

Onshore Energy Development:

NATURAL GAS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT INTRODUCED. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that House Democrats on Wednesday “introduced a bill that would establish new standards to reduce the waste of natural gas from drilling operations on public lands.” The measure by Rep. Alan Lowenthal is “the second Democratic bill in as many weeks to target the venting, flaring and industrial use of natural gas, or methane, from wells on public lands.” The legislation would “also require that royalties be paid on all gas removed from the earth.”

CRAIG HOLDS MEETING ON COLOWYO COAL MINE. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/30, 10K) reports that “Craig community leaders hosted a meeting Thursday night at Moffat County High School Thursday night to provide a brief update on the situation at Colowyo Coal Mine, answer questions and facilitate public comment on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s environmental assessment.” Ray Beck, Craig mayor, “opened the gathering by telling the audience about the economic significance of Colowyo mine’s 220 jobs to Craig and Northwest Colorado.” Christina Oxley, Craig Chamber of Commerce executive director, said the Chamber would be “hosting a series of informal community meetings where any interested individual can ask questions provide their comment to OMSRE.”

Additional coverage of the Colowyo coal mine was provided by the [Green Biz](#) (7/31, 1K) and the [Watchdog](#) (7/31, 7K).

COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN CASE CHALLENGING EXPANSION OF SPRING CREEK COAL MINE. [KTVQ-TV](#) Billings, MT (7/31, 4K) reports that “a federal judge will hear arguments in Billings Friday in a lawsuit over the proposed expansion of the Spring Creek Coal Mine in southeastern Montana.” The suit contests the Interior Department’s “approval of expanded mining at Montana’s largest coal mine.” Two Billings based citizen groups, the Northern Plains Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils, claim “the Interior Secretary approved expanded mining of publicly owned coal without first considering the mine’s failure to reclaim land and water.”

WASTEWATER WELLS CAUSE CONTROVERSY OVER OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES. [Fox News](#) (7/31, Nikolewski, 8.91M) reports that after “a rash of earthquakes in Oklahoma has spurred calls to ban — or at least put a one-year moratorium on — the use of wastewater injection wells.” The article reports that the oil and gas industry says the “move would be unnecessary and counter-productive,” while the Sierra Club argues that a 12 month moratorium would cause a decline in seismic activity.

Offshore Energy Development:

ICEBREAKER PASSES ENVIRONMENTALIST BLOCKADE; SAILS FOR ARCTIC. The [AP](#) (7/31, Dubois, Joling, 2.28M) reports that the Shell icebreaker Fennica has departed Portland, Oregon and is en route to support the company’s drilling prospect in the Arctic after activists fought in court as well as in and above the

Willamette river to stop the voyage. The AP notes that "Sgt. Pete Simpson, a Portland police spokesman, said 'a number of people' were detained and it was still being determined whether any would face charges." [USA Today](#) (7/31, 4.95M) reports that the Greenpeace activists who had hung from the St. Johns Bridge to block the Fennica were lowered into the river after police cut some of their stabilizing ropes. Following the dissembling of that blockade, more protesters, dubbed "Kayaktivists," took to personal watercraft to attempt to close the river. Authorities swept them from the river on jetskis, and had to fish some out of the water. In court, [TIME](#) (7/31, DuBois, Joling) reports separately that US District Court Judge Sharon Gleason held Greenpeace in civil contempt of an earlier ruling preventing it from harassing Shell's efforts, and ordered the group to pay a \$2,500 fine per hour that the dangling protesters remained. By the time the Fennica cleared the bridge, Greenpeace racked up over \$17,000 in penalties.

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/30, 705) reports that "Greenpeace activists hanging by ropes from an Oregon bridge claim to have blocked Royal Dutch Shell PLC's ice-breaking vessel from returning to the Arctic, possibly delaying the company's search for oil." According to the article, "the 13 activists dangled on ropes this morning from the St. Johns Bridge over the Willamette River to impede Shell's Fennica from returning to the Pacific Ocean and heading north to assist its drilling fleet in the Chukchi Sea." The article notes that "the vessel is carrying Shell's capping stack, a key piece of equipment the company is required to have on hand in the Arctic to stop the flow of an out-of-control well."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/30, Dlouhy, 2.28M), [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (7/30, 7K), [Reuters](#) (7/30), [NBC News](#) (7/31, Johnson, 3.73M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/30, Connelly, 560K), the [Oregonian](#) (7/30, House, 756K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (7/31, 20K), [Ashland \(OR\) Jefferson Public Radio](#) (7/31), and [Manufacturing](#) (7/30, 5K).

Sen. Merkley: Shell Must Stop. Writing in the [Huffington Post](#) (7/30, Merkley, 164K), US Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) argues that Royal Dutch Shell must "reverse course and drop their reckless plans for Arctic drilling before it is too late." He invokes safety incidents that have already occurred on the venture as well as the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster to bolster his case, and calls on Shell to demonstrate "leadership by deciding to not put the world at risk by tapping into untouched and treacherous oil reserves in the Arctic."

SEN. NELSON VOWS ALL MEANS NECESSARY TO BLOCK DRILLING BILL. [McClatchy](#) (7/31, Adams, 28K) reports that Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) has vowed to combat a measure under consideration in the US Senate to allow more drilling off the Florida coast. In a statement to Senate leadership, Nelson said that "If any measure to repeal the current moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico comes before the full Senate for a vote, I will use all available procedural options to block it." The legislation made it out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (7/31, Altman, 406K) reports that Sen. Nelson said in a news release, that the "GOP-backed measure would allow oil and gas rigs to operate as close as 50 miles to much of Florida's Gulf Coast – which would undo protection of the state's Gulf Coast dating back some four decades."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ANNOUNCES NEW LEADER FOR NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS PROGRAM. The [Greenwire](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM on Thursday "announced that Kristin Bail, a forest supervisor in North Carolina, will lead the agency's National Conservation Lands program." BLM Director Neil Komze said, "Kristin comes to us with a passion for the National Conservation Lands and a commitment to collaborative management. Kristin's many years of field experience, broad leadership capability and deep knowledge of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System make her an outstanding choice for this position."

WYOMING, MONTANA WANTS CHANGES TO BLM SAGE GROUSE PLAN. The AP (7/31, 2.28M) reports that "the governors of Wyoming and Montana say a federal plan to protect the greater sage grouse is far more restrictive than Western states' own programs to help the struggling species." Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock told the BLM "this week to rewrite major portions of a draft federal policy for protecting the ground-dwelling bird." They "submitted comments to the agency's state directors in separate letters, both dated July 29, outlining their positions on the draft that was released May 28."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (7/30, 75K) and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#)

Idaho Falls, ID (7/31, 4K).

Wildlife Advocates Question Federal Sage Grouse Maps. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (7/31, 506) reports that "after a detailed mapping analysis maps, wildlife conservation advocates say the federal government downsized important habitat for sage grouse." The claims are "outlined in a new report released by WildEarth Guardians. It compares protected areas to remaining key population hotspots." According to the article, "almost 20 million acres designated as Priority Areas for Conservation disappeared from the Priority Habitat areas proposed in U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management sage grouse plans."

BLM COULD CHANGE HOW PERMITS FOR THE WAVE ARE GIVEN. The [Greenwire](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that "a series of heat-related deaths at 'the Wave' in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument has the Bureau of Land Management reconsidering its permitting process for the site." The article notes that "the deaths, which occurred in 2013, led to an outside safety review of risks, increased protocols and a new radio transmitter at the site, which is located in the wilderness along the Arizona-Utah boarder." Now, BLM is also "looking to change the way it disseminates permits in order to have more rangers available to warn hikers of the dangers."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/31, 492K), the [Oklahoman](#) (7/31, 408K), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (7/31, 962K).

BLM DROPS CLAIMS TO MOSQUITO FORK. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (7/30, 2K) reports that "the federal government has backed down in a long running legal dispute with the State of Alaska over ownership of an eastern interior river." The Mosquito Fork is "within a National Wild and Scenic River Corridor, but this week the Bureau of Land Management dropped claims to the waterway." According to the article, "state ownership the Mosquito Fork of the Forty Mile River will open it up to new activity, including mining."

LAND OWNER CLAIMS VICTORY IN RED RIVE BORDER DISPUTE. The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (7/31, 65K) reports that "family farmer Tommy Henderson on Thursday got a patent from the U.S. government on land along the Red River he claims his family has owned since 1904." Henderson said "he hopes the signing of the patent at the Clay County Courthouse paves the way for dozens of other landowners to resolve a dispute with the government that has dragged on for decades."

JUDGE DENIES BID TO STALL PLANNED MUSTANG ROUNDUP AT PRYOR MOUNTAIN WILD HORSE RANGE. The [AP](#) (7/31, 75K) reports that the BLM will "go forward with its planned roundup at the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range after a judge denied a preliminary injunction." U.S. District Court Judge Susan Watters "denied a motion from advocacy group Friends of Animals asking for an injunction."

BLM DELIVERS FIREWOOD TO TRIBES, SENIORS. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (7/31, 22K) reports that the BLM's Battle Mountain District "recently delivered 10 cords of wood to the Battle Mountain Band for fuel wood use." The article notes that "for the past eight years, the district has been engaged with tribal partners in carrying out fuels and restoration projects designed to protect range lands from catastrophic wildfire and to improve habitat for greater sage grouse and wildlife." This year, Battle Mountain Band Chairman Joe Holley and the BLM "signed a free use permit so the agency can assist tribal elders by providing fuel wood to help heat their homes."

COMPANY REVISES PLAN FOR LAYOUT OF EASTERN OREGON GOLD MINE. The [AP](#) (7/31, 2.28M) reports that "Calico Resources Corp. officials have revised plans for their proposed gold mine, moving the processing facilities closer to the mine." Company officials said "this week that the revised plans eliminate the need for a 3.5-mile haul road." The modification was "made in an overall plan of operations filed last week with the Bureau of Land Management."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS LAUNCHING PROBE OF LION'S KILLING. David Wright reported on [ABC World News](#) (7/30, story 8, 1:20, Muir, 5.84M) that the FWS is launching an investigation into the killing of Cecil the lion by American dentist Walter Palmer in Zimbabwe. Agency officials say they have made "repeated attempts" to contact Palmer, but he is "not at his office in Minnesota or at his home or even at his vacation home in Florida." Wright also noted that the "outrage" over the lion's killing "made it all the way to the White House," as a petition on the White House website calling for Palmer's extradition received "well over the 100,000 signatures required" for an Administration response.

Kevin Tibbles noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/30, story 9, 1:50, Holt, 7.86M) that Palmer “has said he’ll cooperate with authorities,” and in a brief report on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/30, story 11, 0:15, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported that Palmer “is getting hate messages from animal rights activists.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/30, 705) reports that “Walter Palmer, the Minnesota dentist who shot a famous African lion while on safari in Zimbabwe, has gone into hiding to avoid the rolling international backlash on social media and outside his dental practice near Minneapolis.” Officials at the FWS, “which is investigating the controversial slaying of Cecil the lion, say they cannot get hold of the avid big-game hunter.” Edward Grace, the agency’s deputy chief of law enforcement, said in a statement, “At this point in time, however, multiple efforts to contact Dr. Walter Palmer have been unsuccessful. We ask that Dr. Palmer or his representative contact us immediately.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) editorializes that “something important can come of the public outrage” following the death of Cecil the lion, and says “it should refocus attention on the many species that are in danger, particularly elephants, rhinos and other beasts being destroyed for their tusks, horns and other parts.” President Obama, it says, “was right on his African trip to forgo the usual safari and instead to announce new legal measures to curtail the transport and sale of elephant ivory in the United States.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/31, Henry, 471K), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (7/31, Rogers, Subscription Publication, 12.12M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (7/31, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.12M), [USA Today](#) (7/30, 4.95M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/31, 5.59M), [Reuters](#) (7/30, Herskovitz), [Newsweek](#) (7/31, 198K), [Yahoo! Politics](#) (7/31, 582K), the [National Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 144K), [TIME](#) (7/31, 19.55M), [US News & World Report](#) (7/30, 811K), [Reuters](#) (7/30), [National Review](#) (7/31, 504K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/31, 2.28M), [BBC News](#) (7/31, 1.68M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (7/30, Drajem, News, 2.46M), [ABC Radio Australia](#) (7/31, 769), the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (7/31, 986K), [Bloomberg News](#) (7/30, Drajem, 2.66M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/31, 5.59M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/30, 3.3M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/31, 5.59M), [Reuters](#) (7/30, Rascoe, Liston), [NPR](#) (7/30, 1.85M), [UPI](#) (7/30), the [Huffington Post](#) (7/31, 164K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Fears, 6.76M), [Reuters](#) (7/31), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/30, 3.3M), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/31, Rascoe, Liston, 5.98M), the [International Business Times](#) (7/31, 835K), the [New York Post](#) (7/30, 2.73M), [Mashable](#) (7/30, 2.12M), [Government Executive](#) (7/31, 3K), [Breitbart](#) (7/30, 1.49M), the [Toronto \(CAN\) Sun](#) (7/30, 84K), the [Global News \(CAN\)](#) (7/31, 36K), and [BBC News](#) (7/31, 1.68M).

FIVE ELEPHANTS POACHED IN KENYA. The [Greenwire](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that “rangers in Kenya’s Tsavo West National Park discovered the carcasses of a female elephant and her four offspring Tuesday morning, their ivory tusks hacked off by poachers.” Two suspects have been arrested. According to the article, “investigators found a bloodstained ax and a hacksaw in one of their homes.” The article notes that “news of the incident has been drowned out by the international firestorm surrounding the death of Cecil the lion at the hands of an American hunter in Zimbabwe.”

NRA OPPOSES PROPOSED BAN ON IVORY TRADE. [CBS News](#) (7/31, 8.2M) reports that during President Obama’s “recent visit to Kenya, he announced the U.S. would establish a nearly complete ban on commercial ivory trade, with the new rules designed to get rid of, or severely curtail, the legal means used by poachers and traffickers to profit from illegally obtained ivory.” However, “the proposed rules face opposition from the National Rifle Association, which objects to potential restrictions on guns with ivory handles, often passed down through families.” Jennifer Baker, a spokeswoman for the NRA, said that “federal and state efforts to ban ivory often involve ‘taking a legally owned possession, and making it illegal. In many instances, it takes law abiding citizens and makes them criminals.’”

SCIENTISTS URGE FWS TO BAN SALAMANDER IMPORTS. [NPR](#) (7/30, 1.85M) reports that “scientists are calling for an immediate ban on live salamander imports in the U.S. to try to prevent the spread of a fungal disease that could potentially devastate wild North American salamanders.” In a report published Thursday in the journal *Science*, Vance Vredenburg, a biologist at San Francisco State University, “and his colleagues identified areas in North America that they think are most vulnerable to the Bsal fungus.” Their report urges the FWS “to ban live salamander imports until scientists have a better understanding of the fungus and the danger it poses to native salamanders.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Zimmer, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that “this spring the service announced that it would evaluate pet salamanders for their risk of introducing Bsal,” but “that process is still inching along.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (7/31, Brown, 4.07M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/30, 455K) and [UPI](#) (7/30).

GROUP'S "STATE OF THE TROUT" REPORT DETAILS THREATS TO AMERICA'S COLDWATER FISHERIES. The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (7/31, 34K) reports that "America's native trout have declined dramatically over the last century thanks to a number of threats ranging from hatchery fish stocking to logging and mining to poorly designed roads and livestock grazing practices." Now, "a new suite of threats, from energy development to a changing climate, poses even greater challenges," according to a new Trout Unlimited report titled "State of the Trout." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The health of America's trout is directly connected to the health of our nation's watersheds—watersheds that provide clean drinking water, drive economic growth and support recreational fishing opportunities for millions of people across the nation. The 'State of the Trout' report provides a valuable overview of the health of these fisheries, helping Trout Unlimited, the Fish and Wildlife Service and our partners identify priority areas for conservation."

DROUGHT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT WILD SALMON. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Fears, 6.76M) reports that "as a drought tightens its grip on the Pacific Northwest, burning away mountain snow and warming rivers, state officials and Native American tribes are becoming increasingly worried that one of the region's most precious resources — wild salmon — might disappear." Native Americans, "who for centuries have relied on salmon for food and ceremonial rituals, say the area's five species of salmon have been declining for years, but the current threat is worse than anything they have seen." The article notes that "in addition to their significance to Native American communities, the salmon are worth more than \$1 billion annually to each state's sport fishing and tourism industries, which support tens of thousands of jobs."

ENVIRONMENTALIST DROP LAWSUIT AGAINST MAD RIVER HATCHERY. The [Courthouse News](#) (7/30, 7K) reports that "environmentalists dropped a lawsuit against a trout and salmon hatchery run by California and Uncle Sam, for attorney's fees and a promise that the Fish and Wildlife Service would meet some demands." A federal judge "approved the stipulation and dismissal on Monday, in the Environmental Protection Information Center's lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and five top officers of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife." The group "claimed that fish spawned in the Mad River Hatchery in Humboldt County 'compete with, prey upon, or interbreed with native wild coho and Chinook salmon and wild steelhead trout that are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.'"

COURT REJECTS LAWSUIT OVER TORTOISES' PROTECTION. The [Courthouse News](#) (7/30, 7K) reports that "an animal rights group frustrated in its efforts to protect two rare tortoise species, cannot sue the federal government for responding to its queries 'with the alacrity of a proverbial tortoise,' a federal judge ruled." According to the article, "in a complaint filed in January, the not-for-profit Friends of Animals claimed the Department of Interior failed to make timely determinations on petitions to list the spider tortoise and the flat-tailed tortoise as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act." However, "in a ruling announced on Wednesday, U.S. District Judge John Bates found the animal advocates failed to show the Interior Department's actions or lack thereof caused them any 'concrete' harm."

National Park Service:

CONFEDERATE FLAGS PLACED ON MLK HISTORIC SITE IN ATLANTA. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/31, 1.05M) reports that "Several Confederate flags were found around the King Center and Ebenezer Baptist Church Thursday morning." Ebenezer Baptist Church Rev. Shanan Jones is cited saying "police and Homeland Security are working to remove the flags."

[Reuters](#) (7/30, Mckay) quotes Ebenezer senior pastor Rev. Raphael G. Warnock: "This is the same as placing a swastika on the campus of a Jewish temple...Whatever the message was, clearly it is not about heritage, but about hate."

The [AP](#) (7/30) calls the action "the latest provocative act involving the Civil War-era symbol since nine black church members were gunned down during Bible study in South Carolina, and it happened in the heart of an area devoted to the slain civil rights leader, near his birthplace, his crypt and a center devoted to preserving his legacy."

[CNN](#) (7/30, Watkins, 5.17M) and [Scripps Howard News Service](#) (7/31, 132) also report this story.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Bever, 6.76M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald](#)

[Courier](#) (7/31), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (7/31, Brumback, 1.1M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/31, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Kate Brumback |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31, Brumback, 344K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (7/31, 1.08M), the [New York Post](#) (7/30, 2.73M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (7/30, Reports, 2.46M), [USA Today](#) (7/30, Wxia-Tv, 4.95M), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (7/31, 3.75M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/31, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Press, 6.76M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/30, 3.3M), [Fox News](#) (7/31, 8.91M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/30, 455K), the [International Business Times](#) (7/31, 835K), and the [Huffington Post](#) (7/31, 164K).

NPS LOOKS TO MAINTAIN BAN ON SALES OF BOTTLED WATER. The [Greenwire](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS says "it will maintain an initiative to help parks halt sales of bottled water even if Congress tries to intervene." According to the article, "even though Congress earlier this year inserted language to block NPS from halting bottled water sales in an appropriations bill that later stalled, the agency says that wouldn't be the end of the story." Instead, "nonprofits and companies could work with NPS to implement the changes on their own, such as installing refilling stations, the park service said."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Rein, 6.76M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/31, Post, 787K), and the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (7/30, 148K).

NPS, NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY SIGN COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT. [KTBS-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (7/31, 46K) reports that the NPS and Northwestern State University have "entered into a five-year agreement covering historic preservation, interpretation, education, research and cultural resource management for the Cane River Creole National Historical Park." National Park Superintendent Laura Soullière Gates said, "The National Park Service has been proud to partner with Northwestern State University in our shared endeavors. This new agreement lays the foundation for the future, so that the melding of the scholarly pursuits of the university faculty and the research needs of the National Park Service can continue to intertwine in a manner that promotes the highest scholarship and the use of that information in the best possible management of national park resources."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTAL-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (7/31, 711).

NPS PLANNING CANOE-SHARING SERVICE ALONG MISSISSIPPI. The [Greenwire](#) (7/30, Subscription Publication) reports that "a canoe-sharing service could connect points within the 72-mile-long Mississippi National River and Recreation Area starting next year, allowing visitors to travel through the park without a car." According to the article, "a network of canoes, bikes, buses and the Northstar commuter-rail line would allow visitors and residents of the nearby Twin Cities to travel to and through the urban park without an automobile." Susan Overson, landscape architect and park planner for the river park, said, "We see this as a way to attract people to our park as a destination. They want to put their feet into the Mississippi, and we are trying to make that easier for people to do."

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA RECEIVES GRANT FROM NPS THROUGH NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE GRANT PROGRAM. The [Athens \(GA\) Banner-Herald](#) (7/31, 98K) reports that "the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service has received a \$41,837 matching grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service through the National Maritime Heritage grant program for a film documentary project entitled Georgia's Rich Maritime Cultural Heritage: Generational Commercial Fishing Families." The film will "highlight the maritime cultural history of commercial fishing along the Georgia coast, from its boom in the 1950s and eventual decline in the 1970s and 1980s, through to its current prospects for recovery."

FEDERAL AGENCIES, TRIBES COLLABORATE ON GRAND CANYON'S DESERT VIEW WATCHTOWER. [KNAU-FM](#) Flagstaff, AZ (7/31, 1K) reports that "the historic Desert View Watchtower at the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park is transforming into a Native American heritage center." Officials with the NPS say "the project marks one of the first opportunities for Native American tribes to directly present information to the public in a national park." The article notes that "eleven tribes and bands with ancestral ties to the Grand Canyon will collaborate with the National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as nonprofit organizations."

ARCHAEOLOGISTS AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK FIND ARTIFACT TROVE NEAR MOOSE-WILSON ROAD. The [AP](#) (7/31, 2.28M) reports "archaeologists at Grand Teton National Park are just now finding some of the late Archaic Period relics that were left behind" by American Indians. According to the article, "to date, 11 archaeological sites have been identified in the corridor, some of which contain as many as 750 artifacts." The article notes that "planning for the future of Moose-Wilson Road put the native artifact inventory for the area into overdrive."

SHRINKING LAKE MEAD REVEALS LOST WILD WEST TOWN. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/31, 2.28M) reports that “With Lake Mead at less than half its capacity, remnants of a Nevada ghost town are reemerging.” According to the NPS, “vestiges of St. Thomas, which was about 35 miles southeast of Las Vegas, have resurfaced over the decades with the fluctuation of the lake level.” A park service spokeswoman said that “it’s been exposed since then due to the drought.”

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON IDEAS FOR SOLVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN AREA PARKS. The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (7/31) reports that “in an attempt to solve the problem of increasing traffic congestion and crowding in Arches and Canyonlands national parks, the National Park Service (NPS) is asking the public to weigh in on possible solutions.” Last week, “as part of its efforts to develop a Traffic Congestion Management Plan, the NPS released a public scoping newsletter that examines 16 possible management solutions.” The plans are “open for public comment and NPS officials are encouraging all community members to read the newsletter, which outlines the pros and cons of each potential solution, and make suggestions during the open public comment period, which closes Aug. 19.”

PAPER SUPPORTS CREATION OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (7/31, 183K) editorializes that “the three installations that produced the bombs have a unique place in history, and the pending formation of a Manhattan Project National Historic Park will assure those sites are preserved.” On Tuesday, it notes that “the Department of Energy and National Park Service signed a memorandum that will guide the transformation of the Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee, facilities into interpretive centers where generations might grasp the giant scope of the scientific effort, its consequences and the effects on the lives of those who worked there, and those ousted to make way.” The paper says that “although its opening may be some years ahead – it took three to produce the bombs themselves – the achievements at Hanford, Oak Ridge and Los Alamos deserve recognition.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (7/31, 235K) and the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (7/30, 100K).

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT NATIONAL PARKS WITH ADEQUATE FUNDING. In a piece for the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (7/31, 497K), Joseph H. Carter Sr. writes that “Florida’s nine national parks are suffering, needing about \$190 million in crucial maintenance left unfunded and neglected at the end of the last fiscal year, the National Park Service reports.” However, “repairing park facilities is only part of the problem.” He notes that “public properties demand skilled law enforcement, abuse protection agents, park guides and trained firefighters.” Meanwhile, “staffing has been cut in each category.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS INVESTS ANOTHER \$4 MILLION IN EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (7/30, 68K) reports that the USGS “announced Thursday it will put another \$4 million toward its ‘ShakeAlert’ earthquake early warning system.” The article notes that “the funding comes from a \$5 million boost to the USGS Earthquake Hazards Program budget, which was approved by Congress earlier this year.”

NEW ONLINE USGS TOOL TRACKS NUTRIENTS, SEDIMENT IN WATERWAYS ACROSS NATION. The [WaterWorld](#) (7/31, 96) reports that “thanks to a new online tool from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), water professionals can now better access graphical summaries of nutrients and sediment levels in rivers and streams across the nation.” According to the article, “the online tool can be used to compare recent water-quality conditions to long-term conditions (1993-2014), download water-quality datasets (streamflow, concentrations and loads), and evaluate nutrient loading to coastal areas and large tributaries throughout the Mississippi River Basin.” William Werkheiser, USGS associate director for water, said “Clean water is essential for public water supplies, fisheries and recreation – it’s vital to our health and economy. This annual release of water quality information in graphical form will provide resource managers with timely information on the quality of water in our rivers and streams and how it is changing over time.”

ENDANGERED PALLID STURGEON LARVAE FOUND IN MISSOURI RIVER. The [AP](#) (7/30, 811K) reports that “three fish larvae captured from the Missouri River last year have been confirmed as those of the endangered pallid sturgeon, the U.S. Geological Survey said Thursday.” According to the USGS, “the larvae were among hundreds of larval shovelnose sturgeon and paddlefish collected near Bellevue on May 30, 2014.” Scientists said that “the pallid sturgeon larvae were 1 to 3 days old...indicating the parents spawned between

Gavins Point Dam on the South Dakota and Nebraska border and an area where the Platte River meets the Missouri.”

Top National News:

OBAMA, BIDEN CONTINUE PUSH FOR IRAN DEAL. Administration efforts to win congressional support for the Iran nuclear deal were once again ignored by the three network news broadcasts Thursday evening, and discussion of the deal on cable was sparse. Print and online coverage, however, continue to be heavy, with much of it highlighting the President’s personal efforts to win the support of Hill Democrats and his assertion that lawmakers “owe” him the chance to persuade them. Stories also note the announcement by several Democrats that they will back the agreement and the push by Republicans to obtain the details of so-called “side deals” between the IAEA and Iran.

[Politico](#) (7/30, French, 942K) described the President as “engaged, direct, even a little bit personal” during a meeting with “20 House Democrats who gathered in the White House’s Blue Room Wednesday night,” noting that he “told the lawmakers they ‘owe me’ the chance to persuade them to support the nonproliferation agreement, according to multiple members in attendance.” The President told the lawmakers that they “would not get a pass on the Iran bill — that he wants, and expects, their support.” On its website, [CNN](#) (7/30, Walsh, Serfaty, 5.17M) noted that the President warned the lawmakers that “there would be fallout for future relationships abroad if Congress failed to back the agreement,” saying it would “make the United States look unreasonable to the rest of the world and endanger future deals.” White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest “described the conversation with House Democrats as ‘taking on directly some of the most common criticism of the agreement.’”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Sink, House, 2.66M) reports that the Vice President held a private breakfast with “a small group of lawmakers” Thursday as part of the Administration’s “final pitch on the deal before Congress leaves for its August recess.” Bloomberg cites “three officials” who say the effort comes as Administration officials “are increasingly finding themselves on the defensive against criticism from Republicans and some Democrats, as well as vehement opposition from Israel.”

The effort appears to be winning over some Democrats. According to the [AP](#) (7/30, Kellman), four Democrats, including Rep. Dan Kildee, whose constituents include Amir Hekmati, who has been held in Iran since 2011, announced their support for the deal on Thursday. The AP calls the announcements from Kildee, Sen. Tom Udall, and Reps. Chris Van Hollen and David Price “a major boost” for the President. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Weiner, 6.76M) says Van Hollen’s support for the agreement ends “two weeks of sniping with rival Senate candidate Donna Edwards.” Van Hollen said in a statement, “I firmly believe that, should Congress block this agreement, we would undermine the goal of Iran never obtaining a nuclear weapon, inadvertently weaken and isolate America, and strengthen Iran. ... I have concluded that this agreement advances the national security interests of the United States and all of our allies, including our partner Israel.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that Kildee “has become an outspoken advocate for” Hekmati and other Americans being held or missing in Iran. He said, “I do think it’s important that we evaluate the agreement on its own merits, and the case of the Americans is a consideration but shouldn’t be determinative.” His assessment, the Times notes, “is important because the debate in Congress over whether to support it has become entangled with the prisoner issue.” [Politico](#) (7/30, Toosi, 942K) noted Kildee said in a statement that “his support for the deal wouldn’t stop him from pushing for Hekmati’s release.” A separate [AP](#) (7/30, Kellman) story reports that Kildee “said he ultimately rejected the argument against the deal, in which opponents suggested the US could reject and then renegotiate it to further tighten enforcement on Iran.” According to Kildee, “The US would lose its credibility by backing away from the agreement, and if that happened, there likely would be no new negotiations.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (7/30, Camey, 471K) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “slammed” the President on Thursday, “suggesting that it’s unacceptable that the administration hasn’t turned over agreements between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).” Referring to a letter he and House Speaker Boehner sent to the President earlier this month “demanding that the administration hand over the two ‘side’ deals,” McConnell said, “That was more than a week ago, but we still have yet to receive them. ... Without this critical information, Republicans and Democrats in Congress may not be able to properly assess such a highly consequential deal with Iran. That simply is not acceptable.” In a separate story, [The Hill](#) (7/30, Hattem, 471K) reported that “around 30 lawmakers” have signed a [letter](#) “demanding” that the White House obtain the “side deals” and provide them to Congress. According to the letter, the Administration’s “failure to hand over the

details” of the deals “would violate legislation passed by Congress to review the deal.” The letter has been circulating since Wednesday and the “number of signatories is only likely to grow.”

Earnest on Thursday “belittled” Sen. Tom Cotton, who claims to have uncovered the “secret side deal” between the IAEA and Iran while in Vienna, calling him an “international man of mystery,” the [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Boyer, 344K) reports. Earnest said, “I hope that Senator Cotton had a pleasant trip to Vienna, but his travel was not necessary to learn the information he claims to have obtained,” and then, “with smiling sarcasm,” added, “Tom Cotton, Republican international man of mystery.”

In an op-ed for [TIME](#) (7/31, 19.55M), Cotton and Rep. Ron DeSantis argue that Congress “must reject this deal,” which they say “provides Iran with \$150 billion in unfrozen assets with which to fund terrorism, puts our national security at risk, and does little to stop Iran’s quest for a nuclear weapon.” They write that the President’s claim “that the alternative to a bad deal is no deal” was correct because no deal “would have provided us with the opportunity to reset the negotiations and achieve a better deal, one that actually requires Iran to completely disarm its nuclear program.”

Former Ambassador Nicholas Burns discussed the IAEA agreements on [MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (7/30, 487K), saying the IAEA should “let it be known publicly that it has confidence that it can have line of sight into Iran’s nuclear program, would be able to detect cheating. I think since we’re all member states of the IAEA, I think – and given the prominence of this issue – I think the IAEA should be able to make that assurance and give some detail without violating its agreement with Iran to the members of Congress, because this deal will not go into effect unless Congress obviously ends up either not defeating the President’s policy or agreeing with the President’s policy, which obviously would be the preferable outcome here.”

Pelosi: Deal Is A “Diplomatic Masterpiece.” House Minority Leader Pelosi told reporters Thursday that the agreement is a “diplomatic masterpiece,” and according to [USA Today](#) (7/31, Davis, 4.95M), said the President “will have the support he needs to uphold” the deal “if Republicans try to block it.” Pelosi said, “More and more of (House Democrats) have confirmed to me that they will be there to sustain the veto.” [The Hill](#) (7/30, Lillis, 471K) said that when Pelosi was asked the reason for her confidence, she said, “Because of the nature of the agreement.” While she said that House Democrats “are lining up behind the deal in numbers sufficient to uphold a veto,” [The Hill](#) noted that most House Democrats “have not played their hand, saying they want to use the 60-day window to talk to experts and constituents about the agreement.”

Pelosi also lashed out at opponents of the deal, questioning whether they read it “before coming out in opposition,” the [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Dinan, 344K) reports. While Pelosi “questioned opponents’ motives,” saying, “Have they even read it? It looks political to me,” she was “quick to say she wasn’t questioning the sizable number of Democrats in Congress who appear to be leaning against the deal, saying she still respects them, saying her criticism was aimed only at unnamed outside groups.” DNC Chairwoman Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz also criticized the deal’s Republican opponents on [MSNBC’s Hardball](#) (7/30, 713K), saying, “The problem I see with people who are saying they are opposed to the deal – The Republicans, I think, have been very irresponsible, where they’re unilaterally immediately coming out against it. ... We have to be deliberative. ... The number one decision that this should be based on is what is the most likely scenario that prevents Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon.”

Iran Says US, Canadian Inspectors Can’t Visit Nuclear Facilities. Several stories highlight Iranian state media reports on comments by regime officials about the agreement and Administration efforts to win the support of lawmakers. [Newsweek](#) (7/31, Martinez, 198K) cited an [AP report](#), which said Iranian officials declared on state TV Thursday that Iran “will not allow US and Canadian inspectors to visit its nuclear facilities.” The report quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as saying, “American and Canadian inspectors cannot be sent to Iran. ... It is mentioned in the deal that inspectors should be from countries that have diplomatic relations with [the] Islamic republic of Iran.”

Meanwhile, Iran’s state run media also reported that senior Iranian officials have accused the Administration of “lying” about the nuclear deal “in order to calm Congress and the ‘Zionist lobbies,’” the [Blaze](#) (7/30, 1.66M) reported. In an interview with state-run radio, nuclear negotiator Hamid Baeidinejad said, “The remarks by the Western officials are ambiguous comments which are merely uttered for domestic use and, therefore, we should say that there is no ambiguity in this (nuclear) agreement.” Similarly, according to the Fars News Agency, “the director general for political affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry also ‘downplayed the significance of the recent comments made by the US officials on the nuclear agreement.’” In a piece for the [New Yorker](#) (7/31, 4.87M), Robin Wright writes that the Iranian regime “refuses to shelve” the “Death to America” sentiment. Wright adds that while some Iranians “downplayed the revolutionary mantra’s importance” and others “insisted it still has

strong symbolic merit," all "seemed befuddled about why it would ever impact the fate of the nuclear deal."

Competing Jewish Lobbies Square Off Over Deal. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/30, Kiefer, 455K) reported on competing ads about the deal from AIPAC, and J Street, two "competing Jewish lobbies." The groups' lobbying efforts are "shaping up to be the first big test of their competing Jewish-American worldviews on Capitol Hill." While Republicans "are firmly in line with AIPAC," the "scramble is on for Democrats, especially in the House, where they are seen as the firewall against GOP opposition." The groups' lobbying, the Monitor added, "points to splits within the American Jewish community itself." J Street, which "describes itself as pro-Israel, argues that it represents the majority view of the Jewish community," released a survey this week which "shows 60 percent of American Jews support the Iran deal." AIPAC, meanwhile, is relying on skepticism reflected in a "recent national poll of Jews by the LA Jewish Journal," which found "a majority of respondents saying the agreement makes Israel 'more endangered.'"

[The Hill](#) (7/30, Hensch, 471K) reported in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that, days ahead of Rosh Hashanah, the Orthodox Union plans to bring rabbis to Washington to protest the agreement. A save-the-date notice sent by the group this week said, "We are confident that hundreds of rabbis traveling to Washington on the eve of this vote and just days before Rosh Hashanah will have a highly visible and real impact upon this fateful vote in Congress."

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 6.06M), Ruth R. Wisse, a former professor of Yiddish and comparative literature at Harvard, cites Iran's calls for the annihilation of Israel to argue that the deal will foster anti-Jewish racism, and says the President seems unable to recognize Iran's anti-Jewish views. However, in his column for the [New York Times](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 12.12M), Roger Cohen praises Rep. Sander Levin, "the longest-serving Jewish member of the House," for reaching "the sober, accurate conclusion that the agreement is 'the best way to achieve' the goal of preventing Iran from advancing toward a nuclear weapon, an outcome that will make Israel, the Middle East and the world 'far more secure.'"

Sojourners President Decries "Outrageous" Language In Iran Deal Debate. Writing for the [Huffington Post](#) (7/30, 164K), Jim Wallis, president of Sojourners, decries the language being used in the debate over the Iran deal, calling it "a drumbeat of outrageous political speech that is historically inaccurate, intellectually dishonest and even deceptive, morally and spiritually offensive, and willfully tone deaf." Wallis writes that "no agreement, no matter how diligently negotiated, is perfect," and while Iran is "an enemy of America, an enemy of Israel, and an enemy of peace," one must "find ways to make peace with your enemies in order to reduce potential conflict."

Rogin: French Official Contradicts Kerry Argument For Deal. In his column for [Bloomberg View](#) (7/30, 94K), Josh Rogin writes that while Secretary of State Kerry has argued that "our friends in this effort will desert us," if Congress rejects the deal, Jacques Audibert, senior diplomatic adviser to French President Francois Hollande, "has a totally different view: He told two senior US lawmakers that he thinks a Congressional no vote might actually be helpful." According to Rep. Loretta Sanchez, who met with Audibert along with Rep. Mike Turner, "He thought if the Congress voted it down, that we could get a better deal." Rogin notes that Audibert's comments "are a direct rebuttal to Kerry, who in remarks to the Council on Foreign Relations on July 24 said that if Congress voted down the deal, there would no chance to restart negotiations in search of a tougher pact."

SENATE PASSES THREE-MONTH HIGHWAY FUNDING BILL. In a 91-4 vote, [USA Today](#) (7/31, Kelly, 4.95M) reports, the Senate on Thursday approved a measure "to keep the Highway Trust Fund running for another three months, preventing an abrupt halt to road and bridge construction at midnight Friday." The President "said he will sign the legislation," passed by the House on Wednesday. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (7/31, Miller, House, 2.66M) notes the measure is "the 34th stopgap highway funding bill in the past six years." [Politico](#) (7/30, Caygle, 942K) similarly refers to the "long line of punts Congress has relied on to keep programs running since 2009, funneling more than \$73 billion into the Highway Trust Fund to cover shortfalls in gas tax receipts."

[US News & World Report](#) (7/30, Neuhouser, 811K) noted that "Republican Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jeff Flake of Arizona, Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, and independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont – a Democratic presidential candidate – voted against the bill."

The [AP](#) (7/31, Lowy) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said yesterday that the bill's passage is "a win for our country," adding, "Many thought we'd never get here, but we have." Sen. Barbara Boxer "negotiated compromises with McConnell that helped pick up enough Democratic support for the bill for it to clear procedural hurdles and pass." Said Boxer, "We had to give some ground, but we found common ground. ... And we all believe this bill is so important for our nation."

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that “earlier on Thursday, the Senate voted 65-to-34 for an alternative highway bill that would pump \$350 billion over six years into projects for the nation’s crumbling roads and bridges.” The measure “will be shelved until the fall, and House members have expressed strong reservations about its funding provisions, which would cover only the first three years of spending.” [Roll Call](#) (7/30, Lesniewski, 113K) indicated that “all of those issues and the extent to which they were resolved by the Senate will be matters for both the House and likely the eventual conferees who will have to hammer out differences between the two bills.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) quotes McConnell as saying, “We all want to work out the best possible legislation for the American people in a conference later this year.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/30, Barron-Lopez, 164K), [The Hill](#) (7/30, Camey, 471K), [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Howell, 344K), [Washington Post](#) (7/30, Snell, 6.76M) and [Reuters](#) (7/31, Morgan), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

GDP GREW AT 2.3% RATE IN 2ND QUARTER. [USA Today](#) (7/31, Davidson, 4.95M) reports that the US economy “bounced back in the second quarter on stronger consumer spending, exports and home construction,” according to data released by the Commerce Department on Thursday. US GDP grew at an annualized rate of 2.3 percent during the quarter, while the first quarter’s originally reported 0.2 percent decline was revised upward to a 0.6 percent growth rate.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, 2.66M) says that the data paints a picture of “incremental progress consistent with the Federal Reserve’s view.” While the economy has “moved beyond some of the early 2015 constraints including weather and port delays,” weakening global markets, “a strong dollar and insufficient wage gains may continue to limit growth.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that the 2nd quarter “rebound” was “largely expected, after a dismal performance in the first quarter of 2015.” Still, economists had expected a Q2 growth rate of 2.5 percent. Still, the “pace of expansion is largely in line with the trajectory of the recovery, which began exactly six years ago.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Davidson, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) says that the new numbers fit a pattern seen a number of times in recent years – weak growth over the winter, followed by a rebound in the spring and summer.

WSJournal: Slow Growth Due To Obama Policies. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) notes that the new report also contained revisions to GDP growth from past years, reducing the average annual rate from 2011 to 2014 to 2.0 percent annually from a previously reported 2.3 percent rate. The Journal says that since the end of the recession, GDP growth has average 2.1 percent per year, even lower than the heavily criticized average of 2.7 percent during the recovery under George W. Bush. The Journal argues that the slow growth is due to a raft of bad policies during the Obama era.

Jobless Claims Up Last Week. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, 2.66M) reports that first-time jobless claims rose 12,000 last week to 267,000, rising from a “four-decade low” the prior week. Economists had expected claims to come in at 270,000. The four-week moving average, which irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 3,750 to 274,750.

Stocks Little Changed On Thursday. The [AP](#) (7/31) reports that US stocks ended Thursday “mostly flat,” recovering “from broad losses earlier in the day.” The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 5.41 points to 17,745.98, while the S&P 500 rose 0.06 points to 2,108.63 and the Nasdaq Composite Index was up 17.05 to 5,128.78.

US Banks Seriously Overshadowing European Rivals. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Baer, Colchester, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) reports that US investment banks are beginning to dominate their European counterparts, growing strongly even as their overseas counterparts struggle to maintain their positions.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “Setting Big Goals, Hillary Clinton Joins The Climate Battle.” A [New York Times](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) editorial praises Hillary Clinton, who unveiled a climate plan this week, saying she is “at least is willing to confront global warming, which her prospective Republican opponents have been doing their best to avoid, belittle and deny.” But the Times says “as solutions go, setting goals isn’t much,” and argues that “if the global warming’s worst consequences are to be avoided, a big chunk of the world’s fossil fuels will have to stay in the ground,” and a “big test of Mrs. Clinton’s commitments will be whether and how she

addresses this reality.”

“Obama Administration Ignores Malaysia’s Trafficking Record.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) says that after just “one year on the State Department’s list of countries that are failing to combat modern-day slavery, Malaysia has been upgraded to a higher category,” which “strains credulity, given how little Malaysia has done to address the problem.” The Times says the move “has raised suspicions that Malaysia’s status was changed to advance the Trans-Pacific Partnership.” It argues that “honest appraisals of countries’ records on trafficking are vital to the integrity of a process that is meant to hold nations accountable,” but “that is put at risk by decisions made for political reasons.”

“The Death Of Cecil The Lion.” The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) editorializes that “something important can come of the public outrage” following the death of Cecil the lion, and says “it should refocus attention on the many species that are in danger, particularly elephants, rhinos and other beasts being destroyed for their tusks, horns and other parts.” President Obama, it says, “was right on his African trip to forgo the usual safari and instead to announce new legal measures to curtail the transport and sale of elephant ivory in the United States.”

WASHINGTON POST. “An Officer Indicted.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, 6.76M) writes in an editorial that “by moving quickly...and respecting the community’s interest in transparency,” in the case of a fatal shooting by a University of Cincinnati police officer, county prosecutors and university “officials reduced the likelihood of a violent reaction.” The Post further argues that “what’s beyond doubt is that the Ferguson imbroglio led directly to important policy changes,” with “Americans...more focused on these issues now than they have been in many years,” which is “having positive, real-world effects.”

“Tell The Truth In Egypt.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, 6.76M) editorializes that Secretary of State Kerry “could not have been more wrong” when he said two years ago that Egypt’s military was “restoring democracy” by removing former President Mohamed Morsi. The Post says Kerry’s visit to Cairo this week is a chance “to correct his gross public mischaracterizations of the regime” and urge “a badly needed change of course.”

“DC Fire Owns Its Mistake.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/31, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “The Six Year Slough.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) notes that a new report from the Commerce Department contained revisions to GDP growth from past years, reducing the average annual rate from 2011 to 2014 to 2.0 percent annually from a previously reported 2.3 percent rate. The Journal says that since the end of the recession, GDP growth has average 2.1 percent per year, even lower than the heavily criticized average of 2.7 percent during the recovery under George W. Bush. The Journal argues that the slow growth is due to a raft of bad policies during the Obama era.

“Rosanne Klass.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) praises Rosanne Klass, who died this week at age 86, for her work in advocating US support for Afghan insurgents during the Soviet invasion. The Journal says Klass demonstrated tenacity and confidence in American ideals.

“Hillary’s Keystone Nolo Contendere.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) criticizes Hillary Clinton for refusing to reveal her stance on the Keystone XL pipeline, saying that the Democrat is simply doing so in an effort to avoid upsetting either environmentalists or business interests.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Economy Picks Up but Stays in Its Rut](#)
[US Banks Take Global Lead](#)
[Thirsty for Growth, Liquor Giant Taps Africa](#)
[Investigators Seek Link to Lost Jetliner](#)

New York Times:

[Psychologists Urged To Curb Antiterror Role](#)
[Troubled Inmates, And A Psychologist As Warden](#)

Koch Brothers Brave Spotlight To Alter Image
Abductions Hurt US Bid To Train Anti-ISIS Rebels
Glare Of Video Is Shifting Public's View Of Police
Deals Flow To Contractor Tied To Mexican Leader

Washington Post:

3-Year-Old Girl Fatally Shot By Child Playing With A Gun
Jam On The Street Is Attraction To Some, Distraction To Others
Pivotal Point In Voting Debate
CIA Lead On Omar In 2011 Went Nowhere

Financial Times:

Big Companies Raise Red Flag On China Woes' Hit To Profits
IMF Undecided: Doubts Over Role Of Fund In Eurozone's Next Greek Rescue
Celgene Pays Hefty \$7bn Premium For Its Early Reluctance To Swallow Receptos

Washington Times:

US Intel Fears Hundreds Of Secrets Leaked In Hillary's Private Emails
Government Spends \$695,000 To Teach Kids Filmmaking
White House Calls Planned Parenthood Videos 'Fraudulent,' Rejects Calls To Strip Funding
Insolvency Feared For Obamacare Co-Ops After \$376 Million In Losses In First Year
Mullah Omar Death, Islamic State Growth Shake Afghanistan Peace Hopes

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Malaysia Flight 370 Search; Malaysia Flight 370 Search-Analysis; Airplane Incidents; Cincinnati-Traffic Stop Shooting; Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting; Weather Forecast; California Wildfires; Lion Death Investigation; Mexico-Child Care Facilities Investigation; GHW Bush Recovery Update; FBI-AK-47 Bandit Manhunt; New York-Legionnaire's Disease Outbreak.
CBS: Malaysia Flight 370 Search; NASA-Plane Crash Tests; Cincinnati-Traffic Stop Shooting; Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting; Donald Trump-Scotland Visit; 2016 Politics-Quinnipiac Poll; Planned Parenthood Controversy; HPV Vaccine Report; Ford F-150 Crash Test Results; GHW Bush Recovery Update; Lion Death Investigation.
NBC: Malaysia Flight 370 Search; Malaysia Flight 370 Search; Cincinnati-Traffic Stop Shooting; California Wildfires; FBI-Chinese Cyber Spying Report; Jerusalem-Knife Attack; Planned Parenthood Controversy; California-Rip Current Dangers; Lion Death Investigation; GHW Bush Recovery Update.

Network TV At A Glance:

Malaysia Flight 370 Search – 11 minutes, 55 seconds
Cincinnati-Traffic Stop Shooting – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
Planned Parenthood Controversy – 4 minutes 30 seconds
Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
California Wildfires – 2 minutes
GHW Bush Recovery Update – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Malaysia Flight 370 Search; Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting; Colorado-Women Interrupts Movie Theater Shooting Trial; Cincinnati-Traffic Stop Shooting.
CBS: Malaysia Flight 370 Search; Colorado Movie Theater Shooting Trial; Iran Nuclear Deal-Obama.
FOX: Malaysia Flight 370 Search; California Wildfires; Iran Nuclear Deal-Obama; Lion Death Investigation; Colorado Movie Theater Shooting Trial; Royal Dutch Shell-Job Cuts; Taliban Leadership Changes.
NPR: Congress-Highway Funding Bill; Congress-Pell Grant Program; California Wildfires; Jerusalem-Knife Attack; Wall Street; Cincinnati-Traffic Stop Shooting; Atlanta-Flags Placed Outside Ebenezer Baptist Church; Baltimore-City Jail Closed.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 10 a.m. — The Senate convenes for a pro forma session.

US House: 1 p.m. — The House meets at 1 p.m. in a pro forma session.

Other: POPE FRANCIS VISIT MEDIA CREDENTIALS — Media should complete the credentialing process for Pope Francis' September visit to the United States and the World Meeting of Families no later than July 31. This accreditation process will NOT provide credentials for events at the White House, the US Congress, or the United Nations. Contacts: James Rogers, 202-541-3201. Notes: Application requests sent by email, phone, or any other manner will not be accepted. If your organization has more than 20 applicants, please email popelogistics@gmail.com for specific application processes for bulk applications.

CATO UNIVERSITY 2015 — July 26 – 31. Summer Seminar on Political Economy bringing together outstanding faculty and participants from across the country and, often, from around the globe. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) will be delivering the dinner address on Wednesday, July 29 on Capitol Hill. Location: The Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue NW. On the Net: www.cato-university.org.

MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION TRAINING SEMINAR — July 30 – 31. Held by the Military Child Education Coalition. "Military and Veteran Kids: Their Story, Our Mission." <http://www.militarychild.org/news-and-events/national-training-seminar>. Highlights: 7:30 a.m. Lt. Gen. David Halverson, commander, Army Installation Management Command; Lt. Gen. Samuel Cox, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel, and services; and Vice Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Installations Command. 8:45 a.m. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter provides remarks. 11 a.m. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry Spencer. 2:15 p.m. Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander, US Pacific Command. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Park Rd. NW.

US CHAMBER – CORPORATE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT — 8 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. The US Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the US Business Leadership Network, will host the 2015 Corporate Disability Employment Summit. US Chamber President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue will deliver welcoming remarks prior to several keynote addresses, including a Congressional keynote by Rep. Steny Hoyer and a motivational keynote by Dr. Anjali Forber-Pratt, an elite wheelchair racer and Paralympic Ambassador. There will be panel discussions with US business leaders reflecting on experiences and accomplishments that moved their companies nearer to the goal of a corporate culture where everyone values the strengths that each member, including individuals with disabilities, bring to the organization. Location: US Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St. NW. Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682.

NATIONAL HEATSTROKE PREVENTION DAY — 9:15 a.m. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Administrator Mark Rosekind and Safe Kids' President and CEO Kate Carr will hold a press conference to highlight the dangers of unattended children in hot cars. They will join other speakers to share the work being done to help prevent these needless tragedies, including NHTSA's "Where's Baby? Look before You Lock" campaign. There will be a live demonstration of a simulated EMS response to a report of a child locked in a hot car. NHTSA will also unveil a new report identifying important features of electronic child reminder alert systems. Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Woodrow Wilson Bus Loop, outside of the Woodrow Wilson Ballroom, 201 Waterfront St Oxon Hill, MD. Notes: All attendees must RSVP to public.affairs@dot.gov or call 202-366-9550 to attend. Photographers and camera crews may arrive at 8:30 a.m. for set-up. Please indicate if you are bringing a satellite truck in the RSVP.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, EDUCATION SECRETARY – PRISON — 10 a.m. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and Education Secretary Arne Duncan will visit Goucher College's Prison Education Partnership at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup, Maryland to make "an important announcement" related to federal student aid. Location: Maryland Correctional Institution, 7943 Brock Bridge Road, Jessup, MD. Notes: RSVPs for this event have closed.

PENTAGON – SOUTHWEST ASIA — 11:30 a.m. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Kevin J. Killea, chief of staff, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR), will brief the media live from Southwest Asia in the Pentagon Briefing Room (2E973) to provide an update on operations. Notes: Journalists without a Pentagon building pass will be picked up at the River Entrance only. Plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the event; have proof of affiliation; and two forms of photo identification. Please call 703-697-5131 for escort into the building.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: “[A] new Quinnipiac University poll, which of all the major polls is the hardest to pronounce, has Donald Trump ahead of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker by a lot, 20 percent to 13 percent. Jeb Bush is now down to third. But while Donald Trump leads the Republican field by a wide margin, right now he seems to be unelectable. The same poll shows him losing to Hillary Clinton by 12 points, losing to Joe Biden by 12 points, losing by eight points to Bernie Sanders, and he’s five points behind Bill Cosby.”

Jimmy Fallon: “You guys, we’re in the middle of a heat wave here in New York City and temperatures are supposed to be in the 90’s for the next several days. Donald Trump was so mad about the weather, he actually gave away Al Roker’s personal phone number.”

Jimmy Fallon: “This week, Trump said if his presidential campaign fails, he will ‘ride into the sunset.’ And if Donald Trump wins the presidency, Hillary says she’s gonna ride off a cliff like ‘Thelma and Louise.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Meanwhile, the ‘New York Times’ has released testimony of court cases Donald Trump has been involved in and they reveal that Trump rarely sends emails or text messages. In fairness, it’s a lot easier to communicate in person when you’re a human emoji.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Former Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore officially announced his campaign yesterday, bringing the total number of Republican candidates to 17. Here’s how I know that’s too many. If I saw 17 people in line for the bathroom, I’d be like, ‘No, I’ll wait. I’ll wait ‘til 2020.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Guys, as Hillary Clinton’s poll numbers continue to slide, the movement to convince Joe Biden to run for president has been gaining steam. Which might sound like a joke, but the pay-per-view on a Biden-Trump debate would solve the national debt crisis.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Democratic Congressman Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania could face more than 100 years in jail after he was charged with several counts of corruption. Which could explain Chaka’s new name: ‘Chaka Con.’”

Seth Meyers: “You know, there’s a lot of talk about the 2016 presidential election and there’s been a lot of talk about all the Republican candidates. Hillary Clinton, you know, she’s also running. You hear less about her. She’s not giving a lot of interviews. That’s one of the criticisms. She hasn’t been giving a lot of interviews because, I think, she’s looking out at everyone else who’s running for president, and she’s thinking, ‘If I keep my mouth shut, I think I’ve got this thing.’”

Seth Meyers: “Hillary also said today that her greatest strength is her ‘passionate commitment to helping people.’ For instance, there was that time in 2008 when she helped a young black man from Chicago become president.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, July 20, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 7:05 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Holds Meeting On Colorado Coal Mine.](#)
- + [Officials Dedicate Browns Canyon National Monument.](#)
- + [Interior Approves Expansion Of Four Corners Power Plant.](#)
- + [Proposed Rule Would Protect Streams From Mountaintop Removal Mining.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Touts Initiatives To Connect Youth With Outdoors.](#)
- + [House Leaders Struggling With Interior-EPA Spending Bill.](#)
- + [Experts: Recent Cyber Security Efforts "Little More Than Digital Triage."](#)
- + [Pool At Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park Receives Upgrade.](#)
- + [Demand For Conservation Seed Growing.](#)
- + [Interior Shares Video Of Bear Fight.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of White House Campout.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Interior Shares Picture Of Eagle Battling Seagulls In Alaska.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Federal Sage Grouse Plan.](#)
- + [Recent Monument Designations Criticized.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Support LWCF.](#)
- + [Support Urged For Utah Public Lands Initiative.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Support Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Raids Ruining Tribal Dreams Of Marijuana Boom.](#)
- + [Bill Addresses Roads On Reservations.](#)
- + [Apache Tribe Members Protest Land Handover At New York's Times Square.](#)
- + [Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah Partner On Waterline.](#)
- + [Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Waiting For Taunton Casino Decision.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Tribal Youth Gathering.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Santa Clara Pueblo Objects To Continued Operation Of Pojoaque Casinos.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Drought Means Water Shortages And Cutbacks To Occur With Greater Frequency.](#)
- + [BOR Awards Contract To Replace Glen Canyon Dam Transformers.](#)
- + [Media Criticized For Wrongly Blaming Delta Smelt For Water Cutbacks.](#)
- + [Revised Twin Tunnels Project Debated.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [BLM Seeks Comments On Alton Coal Mine Expansion.](#)
- + [BLM Finalizes New Management Plan For Land In Colorado.](#)
- + [Oklahoma Increases Scrutiny Of Disposal Wells.](#)
- + [BLM Urged To Update Oil And Gas Leasing Terms.](#)

- + Editorial: Regulate Drilling Before Starting In The Everglades.
- + Editorial: More Data Needed On Fracking.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + President Obama Could Visit Alaska This Summer.
- + AP Analysis: Loopholes Hampering Effort To Permanently Seal Unused Wells.
- + Fight Over Drilling In Atlantic Starting To Boil.
- + Oil Industry Dislikes Proposed Offshore Regulations.
- + Oil Industry Dislikes Proposed Offshore Regulations.
- + Derelict Gas And Oil Rigs To Become Artificial Reefs Under "Rigs To Reefs" Program.
- + Additional Coverage: Lease Sale Will Offer Acreage In Western Gulf.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + Utah's Bonneville Salt Flats May Not Be Suitable For Racing This Year.
- + BLM Looking At Overcrowding On South Fork Of Snake River.
- + Arizona Wants Answers From BLM On Burros.
- + BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Discusses Career With Mile Youth Corps.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Senate Subcommittee Holds Hearing On Poaching.
- + Future Of DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery Still In Doubt.
- + Restoring Rare Beetle's Population Could Take Up To 30 Years.
- + Endangered Dragonflies, Raised In Captivity, Being Released.
- + Support Urged For Federal Pollinator Plan.
- + FWS Urged To Deny Petitions To Remove Golden-cheeked Warbler From Endangered Species List.

National Park Service:

- + New Ad Campaign Shows Diversity Of National Parks.
- + Map Shows Quietest Places In US.
- + NPS Distributes Carter Barron And Fort Dupont Announce 2015 Summer Concert Schedules.
- + Scientists Monitoring New Thermal Feature At Yellowstone Park.
- + Scientist To Give Update On Black Hill's Cave Excavation.
- + Students Excavate Site Of Freed Slave Community In Henrico.
- + Fossils Found In Nevada In 2002 Returned.
- + NPS Gives Approval For Clergywoman To Preach At Curtis Freewill Baptist Church.
- + NPS Denies Request For Additional Access To Foothills Parkway.
- + Historic Hensley Settlement At Cumberland Gap Closed Due To Flooding.
- + Mount Rushmore Society Unveils New Youth Shelter At Memorial.
- + New Superintendent Of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Announced.
- + Officials Scale Back Search For Man Missing In Badlands National Park.
- + Swimmer Drowns Trying To Cross Delaware River.
- + NYTimes Criticizes GOP Effort To Reverse "Cautious, Sensible" Water Bottle Ban.
- + Smokies Superintendent Seeks To Connect With Young, Diverse Audiences.
- + NPS Praised For Search And Rescue.

US Geological Survey:

- + Climate Change Could Pose New Risk To Hawaii Bird Populations.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Media Analyses: Iran Nuclear Agreement Faces Uphill Battle In Congress.
- + Investigators Continue To Search For Motive In Chattanooga Shootings.
- + Under Fire From Rivals, Trump Refuses To Apologize For Remarks On McCain.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL HOLDS MEETING ON COLORADO COAL MINE. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "visiting Colorado under pressure to make sure a coal mine ordered to undergo a new environmental review remains open." Jewell added a meeting with officials from Moffat County, where the Colowyo mine employs about 220 workers "to her schedule following calls from local officials as well as from members of Colorado's congressional delegation, asking her to visit the community following a May court ruling ordering a review that will consider coal's impact on climate change."

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/17, 10K) reports that Jewell "reassured Northwest Colorado officials and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Colorado, that Interior will complete work on a study needed to keep Colowyo coal mine open." She said, "We believe the best way to deliver certainty to the Colowyo mine and the people who work there is to fix the deficiencies. I'm confident we'll do it within the 120-day deadline." And "if the timeline should slip, though, Jewell said, 'We will ask for an extension.'"

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/19, 10K) reports that Craig Mayor Ray Beck said that the meeting "went well, and he felt assured that Jewell's department will successfully complete the environmental assessment needed to keep Colowyo Coal Mine open." After the meeting, Moffat County Commissioner Chair John Kinkaid said, "Secretary Jewell expressed strong confidence last night that the necessary work to satisfy Judge Jackson's ruling will be completed on time. We did get the secretary's assurance that, if for some unforeseen reason the mine permit work is not completed in time, DOI will ask Jackson for an extension, so Colowyo miners can keep working. She also expressed confidence that Jackson would grant an extension, if needed."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (7/17, Richardson, 641K) reports that "a WildEarth Guardians official had this message after the Interior Department refused to appeal a court ruling that could cost the jobs of 220 Colorado coal miners: Tough luck." According to the article, "supporters of the mine decried" Jeremy Nichols' "comments Thursday as 'callous' and an example of the group's 'out-of-control war on coal,' as Advancing Colorado's Jonathan Lockwood put it."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/19, 538K), the [Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (7/19, 74K), the [Greenfield \(IN\) Daily Reporter](#) (7/19, 31K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (7/19, 75K), the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (7/17, 30K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/19, Hamon, 894K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/20, 10K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (7/17, 57K).

OFFICIALS DEDICATE BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (7/19, 641K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "joined federal and state officials on Saturday to dedicate the newly created Browns Canyon National Monument near Buena Vista." Jewell said, "Today's celebration honors the culmination of more than a decade of work by the local community to protect this amazing area." Federal agencies will "now prepare a management plan for the monument, with advice from affected American Indian tribes and state officials."

In his column for the [Denver Post](#) (7/19, Willoughby, 894K), Scott Willoughby celebrates the formal dedication ceremony of Browns Canyon National Monument.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/19, 28K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/19, 822K), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (7/19, 167K), the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (7/19, 79K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (7/19, 166K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (7/19, 9K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/19, 2.29M), [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (7/18, 248K), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (7/17, 248K).

INTERIOR APPROVES EXPANSION OF FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT. [E&E Publishing](#) (7/17, 705) reports that the Interior Department "approved the expansion of the Navajo coal mine in northwestern New Mexico and paved the way for continued operation of one of the country's most controversial power plants." In

2012, Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement "launched an environmental impact statement tied to permitting for the mine but also the Four Corners Power Plant, plus associated activities." Last week, Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor "signed a record of decision to allow the mine's expansion, approve the plant's 25-year lease extension with the Navajo Nation, and renew transmission line and road rights of way."

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (7/19, 34K) reports that Connor said in a statement that "the extension incorporates 'a robust suite of mitigation measures designed to reduce the environmental impacts of the project to the greatest extent possible,' while respecting earlier environment agreements, economic considerations and tribal sovereignty."

Also providing coverage are the [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (7/19, 45K), and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (7/19, 20K).

PROPOSED RULE WOULD PROTECT STREAMS FROM MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING. On Thursday, the Interior Department "proposed a new rule aimed at protecting streams from the high level of pollution caused by a technique known as mountaintop removal mining," the [New York Times](#) (7/18, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports. The proposed rule, which "maintain a buffer zone that currently prohibits surface mining activity, including the dumping of excess refuse, within 100 feet of streams," was "quickly" opposed by the mining industry and "some Republicans." Interior officials "said the proposed rule would protect roughly 6,500 miles of streams over the next two decades."

The [E&E Daily](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "pro-coal lawmakers are pledging to push for measures on Capitol Hill to either block or roll back the Obama administration's new proposal affecting the industry." Rep. Alex Mooney said, "These new regulations would be catastrophic to the coal industry and all of the hard-working American families that depend on coal to keep their energy costs low."

The [Greenwire](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "states are reacting with caution and concern to the Interior Department's new proposed rule to protect land and waterways from the effects of coal mining."

Additional coverage was provided by [McClatchy](#) (7/19, 32K), [Politico](#) (7/16, Dixon, 1.11M), the [Ashland \(KY\) Daily Independent](#) (7/19, 39K), the [Prescott \(AZ\) E-News](#) (7/19, 535), the [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (7/19, 59K), [E&E TV](#) (7/19), [CleanTechnica](#) (7/17, 15K), [WaterWorld](#) (7/19, 96), the [Environmental Leader](#) (7/17, 1K), the [West Virginia MetroNews](#) (7/17, 16K), [World Coal](#) (7/19), and [WVVA-TV Bluefield \(WV\)](#) Bluefield, WV (7/17, 5K).

Coal Industry Grappling With Increased Oversight. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Miller, Frosch, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports state and Federal regulators are increasing oversight of coal companies as concerns about the costs of environmental cleanups mount. The recent push has created a political challenge for governors from coal states, who want to avoid hampering the success of vital industries. With the coal industry reeling from competition from natural gas, tougher environmental rules, and a global coal glut, many companies have seen their value collapse forcing bankruptcy. This trend has prompted regulators to question whether coal companies should continue to qualify for "self-bonding," which allows companies to pay for future mine cleanups using their own finances as insurance.

Obama Administration Urged To Listen To Input Of Coal Country. In an editorial, the [Charleston \(WV\) Daily Mail](#) (7/20, 53K) criticizes the decision for not "listening to the input of the states, industries and people most affected by 1,200 pages of proposed new regulations." According to the paper, "if the comment period is, as expected, like comment periods on any other Obama administration rule, concerns from Coal Country will most certainly be ignored."

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS INITIATIVES TO CONNECT YOUTH WITH OUTDOORS. The [Aspen \(CO\) Daily News](#) (7/19, 27) reports that "with the future of environmental awareness in the hands of the next generation, one that is being sucked into technology, globalization and urbanization, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said Friday that introducing young kids to the outdoors is vital." In a panel discussion at The Aspen Institute, Jewell said, "We launched Every Kid in a Park initiative, starting end of this summer, every fourth grader will get a free pass to every national park and federal public land across the United States for themselves and their family, good for an entire year." Jewell also said "her agency is preparing to announce a partnership with local mayors and the YMCA in 50 cities that connects kids in urban areas with public lands."

The [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (7/19, 1K) reports that "Jewell also made it abundantly clear that she is well aware of the

Roaring Fork Valley's efforts to protect Thompson Divide from gas drilling." Jewell said that "she is undaunted by trying to get diverse user groups, from environmentalists to the oil industry and ranchers to mountain bikers, to agree on public land-management issues."

HOUSE LEADERS STRUGGLING WITH INTERIOR-EPA SPENDING BILL. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "House leaders are struggling with the spending bills due to the bizarre debacle over Confederate flag amendments that prompted leaders to pull the Interior-Environment bill from the floor last week." Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, "We haven't been able to even have an Interior approps bill come before the subcommittee for discussion. We made it pretty far, with the fact that we made it out of subcommittee and had a vote in full committee. But still having said that, it doesn't look entirely encouraging right now that we're going to see it on the floor."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/19, 241K) reports that Rep. Steve Pearce is "pushing legislation that would prevent the Bureau of Land Management from raising royalty rates paid by oil and gas companies to extract the traditional fuels from federal land." He "convinced the U.S. House to include an amendment to the House Interior spending bill that would bar any increase in royalty rates that energy companies are compelled to pay to the federal government for oil and natural gas extracted on government lands." Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said, "While we haven't been asked to formally testify before Congress on this, generally the department opposes efforts to curb our authority to set royalty rates which provide a fair return to the American people."

EXPERTS: RECENT CYBER SECURITY EFFORTS "LITTLE MORE THAN DIGITAL TRIAGE." In a nearly 1,500-word article, the [New York Times](#) (7/19, Shear, Perroth, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) warns "senior cybersecurity officials, lawmakers and technology experts said in interviews that the 30-day 'cybersprint' ordered by President Obama is little more than digital triage on Federal computer networks that are cobbled together with out-of-date equipment and defended with the software equivalent of Bubble Wrap." The Times says that despite "dozens of audits for nearly two decades, the Federal government is still far behind its adversaries."

POOL AT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT STATE PARK RECEIVES UPGRADE. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park's "pool has a new entrance plaza and bathhouse." New York "paid half of the \$3.6 million price tag, with the U.S. Department of the Interior covering the rest."

DEMAND FOR CONSERVATION SEED GROWING. The [Greenwire](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "though official numbers are scant, seed companies and trade associations say demand for conservation seed – both native and non-native varieties – is growing." The article notes that "government and the private sector are replanting fire-charred landscapes in the West, building habitat for imperiled species like the sage grouse, sowing fields of flowers to help stem the steep decline in honeybees and other pollinators, and trying other efforts in a long list of environmental objectives."

INTERIOR SHARES VIDEO OF BEAR FIGHT. The [SB Nation](#) (7/19, 5.28M) notes that the Interior Department shared a video of "a good bear fight" on Vine.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE CAMPOUT. Additional coverage of the White House Campout was provided by [People](#) (7/19, 45.74M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR SHARES PICTURE OF EAGLE BATTLING SEAGULLS IN ALASKA. Additional coverage of the picture shared by the Interior Department showing a bald eagle and two seagulls fighting was provided by [Inquisitr](#) (7/19, 369K), [KYTX-TV Tyler \(TX\)](#) Tyler, TX (7/19, 3K), and [KCTV-TV Kansas City \(MO\)](#) Kansas City, MO (7/19, 188K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FEDERAL SAGE GROUSE PLAN. Additional coverage that in "late May, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell unveiled 14 plans that protect 66 million acres of grouse habitat on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands across 10 states" was provided by the [Summit \(CO\) Daily News](#) (7/20, 35K).

RECENT MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/19, McGroarty, 533K), Daniel McGroarty, president of American Resources Policy Network, criticizes recent "land grabs" by the federal government, including the creation of three new federal monuments, "with no input from Congress and no comment from the American public." McGroarty says that "sneaking it through by presidential fiat or parliamentary maneuver is the kind of thing that destroys trust in government."

Beryessa Monument Designated Praised. The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (7/19, 168K) editorializes that "President Barack Obama's announcement last week that he would designate the Beryessa Snow Mountain area a national monument represented another golden moment in the rich history of land preservation in Northern California." The paper also says that "the announcement also is a tribute to the hard work of many environmentalists and lawmakers who have pressed for years trying to get special recognition for this remote swatch of land." It concludes that "the economic activity expected to come from this decision will be in the millions. But the long-term benefits will be far more valuable."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT LWCF. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (7/17, Arce, 194K), Maite Arce, President/CEO, Hispanic Access Foundation, writes about "the success of Latino Conservation Week" and says that "the true lesson that our elected officials should take from Latino Conservation Week" is that "Latinos care about our outdoors and natural resources, they enjoy using them responsibly and they are willing to fight to protect them for future generations." According to Arce, "in the last 50 years, no government program has been more successful in preserving our country's precious natural resources and improving access to the outdoors, which is essential to the Latino community's health, culture and the future of its children, on a national scale than the Land and Water Conservation Fund." Arce writes that "LWCF has been instrumental in creating, protecting and providing access to public lands not just for the Latino community, but also for everyone across the nation – and at no cost to taxpayers."

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/20, 349K), Lewis Ledford is executive director of the National Association of State Parks Directors, writes that "it is time for action, not only to reauthorize LWCF, but to restore its original intent." He notes that "originally, 60 percent of the funds in the LWCF program were designated for state and local projects," and "the remaining 40 percent was for federal agency land acquisition." Ledford argues that "reauthorization of LWCF, with balanced and equitable funding of the State Assistance allocation, will have great impact today and for future generations in meeting the purposes of the original act and the needs of a growing populace."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [AlterNet](#) (7/19, 113K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR UTAH PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/19, 470K), Marcia Argust, project director of the U.S. Public Lands Program for the Pew Charitable Trusts, Mike McKee a Uintah County commissioner, and Ethan Migliori an Emery County commissioner, write that "more than two years ago, two Utah congressmen, Republicans Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz — working closely with Gov. Gary Herbert — launched the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI), aimed at ending three decades of uncertainty over whether to protect or develop public lands in eastern Utah." The authors are "among the dozens of stakeholders in this ongoing collaborative effort, which also includes other county commissioners, state legislators, Native Americans, Utah's School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), conservation interests, recreationists and ranchers." They claim that "the initiative, if adopted into law, could permanently protect Utah's most remarkable landscapes, natural heritage, and nationally recognized unique and scenic places."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT ARIZONA SONORAN DESERT HERITAGE ACT. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (7/17, 1.27M), Jim Uken writes that "in an uncertain budget future, Congress should act collaboratively and resourcefully in its efforts to support the Department of Defense's goals." He argues that "advancing the Arizona Sonoran Desert Heritage Act and similar landscape-level legislation will enable useful, cost-effective tools for protecting mission viability of the range and the bases it supports nationwide."

Empowering Native American Communities:

RAIDS RUINING TRIBAL DREAMS OF MARIJUANA BOOM. In a 1,951-word article, the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/19, Hechtpecht, 551K) discusses a July 8 raid of "vast marijuana cultivation operations" by the Alturas Rancheria tribe and "a larger sister tribe, the Pit River Tribe...revealed an audacious effort to capitalize on the California marijuana market." According to the Bee, "the scale of the operation" in the remote northern California region "suggested its investors held exuberant expectations about their ability to grow marijuana without legal repercussions and distribute it in the state that boasts America's most lucrative cannabis economy." The article also notes other tribes that have sought guidance from Justice Department memos on their ability to cultivate marijuana.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (7/18, 28K) and the [Huffington](#)

[Post](#) (7/19, Noisecat, 194K).

BILL ADDRESSES ROADS ON RESERVATIONS. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Indian Affairs Chairman John Barrasso has introduced legislation "aiming to address the abysmal state of roadways that run through American Indian reservations." The article notes that "infrastructure in Indian Country is either underdeveloped – 70 percent of tribal roads are unpaved – or crumbling – 14 percent of bridges are structurally deficient, according to the Federal Highway Administration." And "only 17 percent of roads in Indian Country are rated in acceptable condition by the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

APACHE TRIBE MEMBERS PROTEST LAND HANDOVER AT NEW YORK'S TIMES SQUARE. The [Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/17, 2.93M) reports that "members of the Apache tribe stood chanting in a circle with drums and posters in the center of New York's Times Square on Friday, to protest against a bill that will hand over land they hold sacred to a foreign mining corporation." The site was "the latest stop for activists from the Apache tribe who are travelling across the United States to battle for Oak Flat and to draw attention to a bill introduced by Arizona representative Raúl M Grijalva to repeal the decision to hand the land over to Resolution Copper."

CHEROKEE NATION, TAHLEQUAH PARTNER ON WATERLINE. The [Tahlequah \(OK\) Daily Press](#) (7/19, 20K) reports that "the Cherokee Nation is partnering with the city of Tahlequah to install nearly two miles of new waterline this summer to better serve the growing student population at Sequoyah High School." The article notes that "the tribe is paying \$300,000 for the project from Bureau of Indian Education funds."

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE WAITING FOR TAUNTON CASINO DECISION. The [Boston Globe](#) (7/20, Murphy, 886K) reports that "complicating the picture in Southeastern Massachusetts are the casino aspirations of two federally-recognized Indian tribes." The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe is "seeking approval from the US Bureau of Indian Affairs for a planned casino in Taunton. When — and whether — that approval will come is a matter of wide speculation." Also, "the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe also faces legal uncertainty."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF TRIBAL YOUTH GATHERING. Additional coverage of the White House Tribal Youth Gathering earlier this month was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/19, 241K) and the [White Mountain \(AZ\) Independent](#) (7/19, 31K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SANTA CLARA PUEBLO OBJECTS TO CONTINUED OPERATION OF POJOAQUE CASINOS. Additional coverage that "Santa Clara Pueblo has asked the federal government to shut down Pojoaque Pueblo's casinos north of Santa Fe, which have continued to operate without a state gambling compact" was provided by the [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M).

[Tackling America's Water Challenges:](#)

DROUGHT MEANS WATER SHORTAGES AND CUTBACKS TO OCCUR WITH GREATER FREQUENCY. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/19, Yardley, 4.03M) reports that "the drought, now in its 16th year, has made one fact brutally clear: The Colorado cannot continue to meet the current urban, agricultural, hydroelectric and recreational demands on it — and the point at which the river will fall short could come sooner than anyone thought." And "as the drought continues, serious shortages and more severe cutbacks have become more likely." The article notes that "in the decades to come, federal officials say, significant shortages are likely to force water-supply cutbacks in parts of the basin, the first in the more than 90 years that the river has been managed under the 1922 Colorado River Compact."

The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "rain has pulled Colorado out of its drought, for now." The article notes that "the water level on Lake Powell is on the rise toward its high of the season. It's currently 54 percent full, according to the Bureau of Reclamation."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/19, 551K), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/20, 74K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/20, Bever, 5.03M), and the [Catholic Online](#) (7/20, 24K).

California Family Struggles To Find Water Amid Ongoing Drought. A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, A1, Saslow, 5.03M) examines California's drought, which is in its fifth year, through the eyes of Miguel Gamboa and Paula Garcia, San Joaquin Valley couple, whose families were drawn to the Valley by the "rain and good soil" that made it "the country's top agricultural producer." The Post describes their efforts to obtain water, noting that "hazy and light brown" water taken from a friend's well was undrinkable but would "allow them to fill their toilets, wash dishes and rinse off with a bucket in the shower that no longer worked."

NYTimes Analysis: Western States Have Less Water Than Expected. In a 1,649-word excerpt of an analysis piece by ProPublica and Matter from their “Killing the Colorado” series, senior ProPublica reporter Abraham Lustgarten explains in the [New York Times](#) (7/19, Lustgarten, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) how the growing use of aquifers and the withdrawal of groundwater in Western states, particularly California and Arizona, “means...there is even less water than people think in a region already afflicted by a prolonged drought that has led to water rationing and fears for the future,” although “How much less, and exactly where the overlaps exist, are not fully known.”

Conservation Urged In Face Of Drought Crisis. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (7/17, 1.27M), Warren S. Gorowitz, vice president of sustainability at Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply, argues that “water conservation and efficiency represent the lowest cost and greatest benefits in managing our precious water resources and can be put into action without infringing on consumers and business operations.”

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT TO REPLACE GLEN CANYON DAM TRANSFORMERS. The [AP](#) (7/19, 37K) reports that “the transformers that increase the voltage to allow power generation at Glen Canyon Dam are getting upgraded.” The BOR says “it has awarded a \$37 million contract to Billings, Montana-based Yellowstone Electric Co. to replace 12 transformers and related equipment. The three-year project begins in August 2017.” Federal officials say “the new transformers are filled with oils that are safer and better for the environment.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (7/19, 139K) and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (7/19, 20K).

MEDIA CRITICIZED FOR WRONGLY BLAMING DELTA SMELT FOR WATER CUTBACKS. For the [East Bay Express](#) (7/6, Bland, 6K), Alastair Bland writes that “mainstream and conservative media and politicians have wrongly blamed the tiny delta smelt for causing water cutbacks for agriculture during the drought.” However, Bland says that “Big Ag, along with mainstream and conservative news organizations and politicians, fail to mention a very inconvenient truth: During the drought, the smelt have had nothing to do with water cutbacks from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the state’s primary source of freshwater.” Rather, Bland claims that “pumping restrictions in the delta during the past two years have instead served to protect the drinking water of millions of Californians and numerous farmers in the Delta region itself.”

REVISED TWIN TUNNELS PROJECT DEBATED. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/19, 551K) editorializes that “something must be done; the status quo in the Delta is untenable.” The paper supports Gov. Jerry Brown’s revised twin tunnels project. It says that “Brown’s goal is to find a more efficient and reliable method of moving water from Northern California to Central Valley farms and Southern California. That is reasonable.”

The [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (7/17, 86K) editorializes that “the project was ill-conceived from the outset, and Brown needs to own up.” According to the paper, “if he wants a legacy of providing for California’s future water needs, he should focus on restoring the Delta levees, giving farmers incentives to install drip irrigation, encouraging more recycling and – if he cares about improving the Delta’s health as an ecosystem, which appears more doubtful with each plan revision – he should send more, not less, water through the estuary.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON ALTON COAL MINE EXPANSION. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/19, 538K) reports that the BLM is “once again reaching out to the public for comment on a proposal to expand Utah’s only surface coal mining operation — a controversial pitch because of potential impacts to sage grouse, nearby national parks and monuments and air quality.” The article notes that “at the same time Alton Coal wants to boost its operation by more than 3,500 acres, the federal agency acknowledges that difficult mining conditions and depleted reserves in Utah’s chief coal beds in Carbon and Emery counties are forcing mining operators to look elsewhere in the state to meet future coal demands.” The BLM’s “comment period runs until Aug. 11 and also includes informational open houses planned for tonight at the Red Lion Hotel in Salt Lake City, July 21 in Kanab at the BLM’s field offices on U.S. 89 and on July 22 at Alton Town Hall.”

BLM FINALIZES NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAND IN COLORADO. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (7/18, 506) reports that the BLM has “finalized a new plan for about 378,000 acres of public lands in Grand, Jackson, Summit, Larimer and Eagle counties, managed by the agency’s Kremmling office.” The

article notes that “the new resource management plan includes a master leasing plan for North Park aimed at balancing oil and gas drilling with resource protection and recreation.”

OKLAHOMA INCREASES SCRUTINY OF DISPOSAL WELLS. [E&E Publishing](#) (7/17, 705) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas officials have put more than 200 new disposal wells under scrutiny for the possibility they might be contributing to the state’s earthquake swarms.” The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) announced that “it is expanding its ‘areas of interest’ to the west and east.” Also, “state officials said they are actively considering telling oil companies to cut the volumes of wastewater they are injecting.”

The [Oklahoman](#) (7/17, Monies, 506K) reported that the move comes as it also received a \$200,000 grant from the Oklahoma secretary of energy to handle the expanded operation. “Expanding the area of interest is the right thing to do at this point,” Michael Teague, secretary of energy and environment, said in a statement. “Though it’s too soon to know the results of the first directive, seismologists agree that injection into or in communication with the basement poses a high risk for seismicity, so this expansion makes sense.”

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (7/18, Jones, 456K) reported similarly.

BLM URGED TO UPDATE OIL AND GAS LEASING TERMS. In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/18, 28K), Chris Maschino, who runs a recreational company, Peaks and Canyons Wildemess Trekking, welcomes the BLM’s plans “to update the terms for federal oil and gas leases” because “part of the problem is that many of the rules and regulations governing oil and gas development on public lands are incredibly old. Some haven’t been updated since Dwight D. Eisenhower was president.” He concludes that “it is time the BLM protected the public interest.”

EDITORIAL: REGULATE DRILLING BEFORE STARTING IN THE EVERGLADES. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (7/18, 729K) editorializes that more regulation of the oil and gas industry is needed before it is permitted to drill in or near the Everglades. Arguing the wetland is “a natural treasure that defines Florida” and that “the ecosystem supplies the water that South Florida needs to thrive,” the paper criticizes the “Contempt for environmental regulation by Gov. Rick Scott and members of the Florida Legislature” and says that “effective regulation is the only possible path to sustained oil and gas exploration in sensitive areas.”

EDITORIAL: MORE DATA NEEDED ON FRACKING. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (7/18, Subscription Publication, 2.92M) editorialized that more information about the chemicals involved in fracking is necessary before the practice expands further. Citing a report conducted by the California Council on Science and Technology and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory that said that “The environmental characteristics of many chemicals remain unknown,” the Chronicle urged “the Legislature to take action to protect consumers and the environment.”

Offshore Energy Development:

PRESIDENT OBAMA COULD VISIT ALASKA THIS SUMMER. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/17, 216K) reports that President Obama could be visiting Alaska this summer. Among the Alaska communities that could be visited are “communities in the Arctic, near where Royal Dutch Shell intends to conduct exploratory offshore oil drilling – efforts that have been met with vocal opposition across the nation and around the world.” Sen. Jeff Merkley, “who introduced legislation Thursday to block Shell’s drilling, told the Houston Chronicle’s energy blog Fuel Fix that he hopes an Obama visit to Arctic Alaska would prompt the Interior Department to withhold the final pending permits Shell needs to drill this season.”

Additional coverage of Shell’s Arctic drilling plans was provided by the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/19, 54K), [MSNBC](#) (7/19, 777K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/17, 216K), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (7/17, 2K), the [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (7/18, 4K), [Offshore Engineer](#) (7/17), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (7/20).

Advocate: Shell Workers “Taking Over” Unalaska. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/20, 216K) reports that an “unlikely pair” of people – a Greenpeace representative and a pro-business development advocate – criticized Shell last week at a meeting in Unalaska over the impact of “the influx of oil company workers” on the city. Frank Kelty, the local government’s natural resource analyst and fisheries lobbyist, said that Shell is “taking over” the Grand Aleutian Hotel, causing disruptions to cell phone and internet service. He also said that UPS deliveries to the city are being delayed because planes are loaded down with Shell packages. The article goes on to report on some other issues raised at the meeting involving Shell, including a concern over drilling.

Two Arctic Drilling Rigs Depart Alaskan Port For Shell Site. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/17, 2.29M) reported that two drilling rigs contracted by Shell have departed an Alaskan port for the company's Arctic exploration operation in the Chukchi Sea. Noble's Discoverer and Transocean's Polar Pioneer are expected to arrive on site in a week.

AP ANALYSIS: LOOPHOLES HAMPERING EFFORT TO PERMANENTLY SEAL UNUSED WELLS. An AP (7/19, Donn) investigation found that, "five years after the Obama administration promised to move swiftly to permanently plug unused oil and gas wells in the Gulf of Mexico, even more shafts are lingering for longer periods with only temporary sealing." The results, based on Federal data, show that "the neglect of long-idle wells has intensified since 2010, despite the Federal push after the BP oil spill in July 2010. The effort "to push companies to permanently seal wells 'in a timely manner,'" referred to as the "Idle Iron" program, has been "beset by loopholes that essentially allow companies to delay permanent closure indefinitely, the AP found."

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox Business](#) (7/18, 387K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/19, Donn, 1.29M), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/19, 538K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/19, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/17, Jeff Donn |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (7/19, 1.02M), the [Greene County \(PA\) Observer-Reporter](#) (7/18, 74K), the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (7/19, 54K), [AOL](#) (7/18, 6.2M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (7/19, Donn, Press, 6.18M).

FIGHT OVER DRILLING IN ATLANTIC STARTING TO BOIL. The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/20, 349K) reports that lawmakers from the East Coast and Southeast "haven't had to think about Atlantic drilling for decades, since oil and gas exploration stopped there in the 1980s." But it may soon restart, "as the Obama administration in January proposed holding a lease sale as early as 2021 for a plot off the coasts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia as part of the administration's five-year offshore drilling plan." The governors of "those states want offshore drilling" as "do most of their federal lawmakers." The Examiner notes "environmental groups have been stirring coastal communities to reject seismic testing...as the latest ploy to stop drilling." The groups are also "making connections with communities that fear drilling would imperil their fishing and tourism industries." American Petroleum Institute offshore policy adviser Andy Radford said, "I think definitely there's been a concerted effort by some of the groups to get their supporters out and oppose anything they can."

OIL INDUSTRY DISLIKES PROPOSED OFFSHORE REGULATIONS. The [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/18, Dlouhy, 2.29M) reported Friday that the oil industry has criticized the Obama Administration's proposed regulations on offshore drilling. A coalition of industry groups released a statement saying that the rules would impose "prescriptive new requirements that would impose unjustified economic burdens." The Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement rule was inspired by the Deepwater Horizon disaster. The main point of contention is a provision on the safe drilling margin, which is more strict under the rule.

Additional coverage was provided by [Offshore Engineer](#) (7/19), [Rigzone](#) (7/19, 11K), and [Your Oil and Gas News](#) (7/19).

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DERELICT GAS AND OIL RIGS TO BECOME ARTIFICIAL REEFS UNDER "RIGS TO REEFS" PROGRAM. The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (7/19, 28K) reports that "thanks to a program called Rigs to Reefs, derelict gas and oil rigs will now become a part of" Alabama's "artificial reefs instead of being sold as scrap metal." The article notes that "Viosca Knoll 385 A, the first rig to be included in the Rigs to Reefs program, was deployed 40 miles south of Dauphin Island on May 21 this year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LEASE SALE WILL OFFER ACREAGE IN WESTERN GULF. Additional coverage that the BOEM announced that it will offer nearly 22 million acres offshore Texas for oil and gas exploration in August's lease sale was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/19, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), the [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (7/17, 83K), [Offshore Magazine](#) (7/19, 129K), and [WDEF-TV Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) Chattanooga, TN (7/19, 2K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

UTAH'S BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR RACING THIS YEAR. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/19, 470K) reports that "an investigation this week confirms that portions of the Bonneville Salt Flats' upper crust are thin or completely dissolved, jeopardizing next month's Speed Week, the Bureau of Land Management said Friday." The BLM "did not order the hundreds of high-speed auto racers from throughout the world to stay away." However, "the agency said in a news release that if the thickness of the salt does not increase soon — presumably by evaporation — it will likely limit racing opportunities on the Bonneville Salt Flats this year to the shorter track area with good surface salt."

BLM LOOKING AT OVERCROWDING ON SOUTH FORK OF SNAKE RIVER. The [AP Salt Lake City](#) (7/19, 1.07M) reports that the BLM is "considering what to do about reports of overcrowding on the South Fork of the Snake River." The Upper Snake Field Office of the BLM will be "holding a series of focus group and gathering input in other ways during a 30-day public comment period." According to the article, "proposed solutions include limiting the number of people who float the river, limiting boat access, limiting outfitter use and requiring campsite reservations."

ARIZONA WANTS ANSWERS FROM BLM ON BURROS. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "Arizona wildlife officials are seeking to learn how the federal government plans to bring the burro population down." The Arizona Game and Fish Department has submitted a public records request to the BLM. In its request, the department says "any information will increase the state's understanding of the BLM's management operations on the issue."

BLM OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER DISCUSSES CAREER WITH MILE YOUTH CORPS. The [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (7/19, 22K) reports that Kalem Lenard shared "with the Mile Youth Corps on Thursday about his career in land management as the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office." He said, "Part of my job is trying to understand what people value about an area — like why they go out there — and how I can facilitate that, or how I can help them achieve that. It could be building trails close to people's homes so that they can improve fitness or ride bikes together."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HODLS HEARING ON POACHING. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication) reports that a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs hearing about poaching last week "underscored both the magnitude of the growing challenge and a bipartisan commitment to tackle it." Subcommittee Chairman Jeff Flake noted that "illicit trade generates up to \$10 billion every year for organized criminal networks and extremist groups." According to the article, "reducing the size of the black market for endangered species and products made from them will be a major challenge for the United States, African governments and the rest of the international community, witnesses told the chairman, ranking member Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), the only lawmakers who attended the mid-afternoon hearing."

FUTURE OF DC BOOTH HISTORIC NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY STILL IN DOUBT. [KEVN-TV Rapid City, SD](#) (7/19, 43) reports that Congress has "passed a bill protecting the DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery — but the facility's future is still in doubt." According to the article, "that bill will expire at the end of September and the Booth Society is still fighting to get it renewed."

RESTORING RARE BEETLE'S POPULATION COULD TAKE UP TO 30 YEARS. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "federal wildlife officials say it could take up to three decades and cost as much as \$30 million to save a rare beetle that once was found in large numbers in parts of Nebraska." The FWS "released its draft recovery plan for the endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle on Wednesday for public comment." According to the article, "officials hope to increase the olive-green insect's population so it can be removed from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife."

ENDANGERED DRAGONFLIES, RAISED IN CAPTIVITY, BEING RELEASED. The [AP](#) (7/19, 1.29M) reports that "federally endangered dragonflies that have been raised in a laboratory over the past several years are being released at a forest preserve this week in Illinois, where scientists believe they'll be a good match with the small population still there." The Hine's emerald dragonflies, "which for decades were believed to be extinct,

were carefully raised at the University of South Dakota over the past four to five years after eggs were collected from a dragonfly in southwestern Wisconsin." The article notes that "three out of the 20 dragonflies that could be released have already been freed so far this week at a forest preserve near Chicago."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (7/19, 709K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/19, 5.37M), [US News & World Report](#) (7/17, 907K), and [Nature World News](#) (7/19).

SUPPORT URGED FOR FEDERAL POLLINATOR PLAN. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/19, 2.29M) editorializes that "a White House interagency task force co-chaired by the secretary of agriculture and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency took a step in the right direction earlier this year" when it "announced an all-hands-on-deck strategy involving many federal agencies and organizations to bring annual honey bee losses down within 10 years." The paper says that "the federal government – the largest landowner in the U.S. – can help create habitat opportunities for bees and other pollinators on public lands as well as in places such as rights of way and other easements." However, "the feds alone can't save our pollinators." The editorial urges "nonprofits, local governments and industry...to team up with the federal government or launch their own efforts to preserve the habitat for our pollinators."

Additional coverage of the national pollinator plan released by the White House was provided by the [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (7/19, 87K).

FWS URGED TO DENY PETITIONS TO REMOVE GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. In an editorial, the [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/19, 2.29M) notes that "three foundations have petitioned Fish and Wildlife to remove the golden-cheeked warbler from the endangered species list, a move that would open large swaths of Central Texas to development." The paper urges the FWS to "deny the petition" or else it would "undo the progress that has been made."

National Park Service:

NEW AD CAMPAIGN SHOWS DIVERSITY OF NATIONAL PARKS. The [AdWeek](#) (7/19, 633K) reports that "Grey New York launched an interesting print and outdoor campaign for the National Park Service, mashing up images of natural wonders and man-made monuments to illustrate that there's more to the National Parks than most people think." The article notes that "the effort is part of the agency's campaign leading up to the celebration of the National Park Service's Centennial celebration next August, which launched back in April." According to the article, "Grey New York cleverly shows the diversity of the parks by combining disparate images of natural and architectural beauty, thereby communicating with a simple image the different experiences the parks have to offer."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AdWeek](#) (7/19, 633K).

MAP SHOWS QUIETEST PLACES IN US. In its "Wonkblog," the [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Swanson, 5.03M) shares "13 maps that show some of the most remote places in the U.S. and around the world." One of the maps shows the noisiest and quietest places in the US. According to the article, "researchers carried out 1.5 million hours of acoustical monitoring to create the map below, of noise levels across the U.S. on an average summer day."

NPS DISTRIBUTES CARTER BARRON AND FORT DUPONT ANNOUNCE 2015 SUMMER CONCERT SCHEDULES. [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (7/19, 35K) reports that the NPS, which oversees the summer concert series at Carter Barron Amphitheatre and Fort Dupont Park, has "distributed the latest concert schedules." According to the article, "for longtime attendees used to catching big names at the parks each summer, this year's schedules might seem pretty anemic," because the NPS has "struggled to maintain the clout that both series once had."

SCIENTISTS MONITORING NEW THERMAL FEATURE AT YELLOWSTONE PARK. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "scientists are monitoring a new thermal feature near Mammoth Hot Springs that was edging up to Upper Terrace Drive." NPS rangers "roped off the road Wednesday after considerable heat was being generated under the road." NPS spokeswoman Traci Weaver says "yellow caution tape has been hung to keep people from touching the area."

SCIENTIST TO GIVE UPDATE ON BLACK HILL'S CAVE EXCAVATION. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "the scientist who led a crew to excavate ice age fossils from the mouth of an unexplored cave in the Black

Hills is updating the public on what's been found so far." Jim Mead will be at Wind Cave National Park on July 25 "to give the public an update on the fossils found so far." The article notes that "there will also be an update on efforts to expand the small cave that could connect with the larger Wind Cave."

STUDENTS EXCAVATE SITE OF FREED SLAVE COMMUNITY IN HENRICO. The AP (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "some Richmond high school students are among the first to discover the artifacts on a historic property in eastern Henrico County owned by a group of African-Americans freed in the 1700s." According to the article, "members of Urban Archaeology Corps, Groundwork RVA, and local and Massachusetts-based National Park Service archaeologists are leading the excavation at Gravel Hill off Longbridge Road near Darbytown Road in Varina."

FOSSILS FOUND IN NEVADA IN 2002 RETURNED. The AP (7/20, 2.29M) reports that "fossils that were unearthed in Nevada more than a decade ago but have been on display in California are back home." According to the article, "the fossil collection's return was celebrated Saturday at the Nevada State Museum." San Bernardino County Museum paleontologists hired by the BLM "excavated 10,000 fossil specimens in 2002 from the Upper Las Vegas Wash." Vincent Santucci, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument superintendent, says "the fossils were legally transferred from the BLM to the National Park Service last month."

NPS GIVES APPROVAL FOR CLERGYWOMAN TO PREACH AT CURTIS FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH. The AP (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "for the first time since 1955, a historic church at Harpers Ferry is coming back to life." Rev. Jackie Dorsey has "won the approval from the National Park Service to preach at Curtis Freewill Baptist Church near the entrance to Storer College."

NPS DENIES REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO FOOTHILLS PARKWAY. The [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (7/20, 64K) reports that the NPS has "denied an informal request from the Blount Partnership for a permanent access to Carrs Creek Road from Foothills Parkway." Blount Partnership President/CEO Bryan Daniels "emailed Cassius M. Cash, superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on May 31, asking his office to consider keeping open the construction entrance off Carrs Creek onto Foothills Parkway." Cash "explained the reasons his staff feels it 'would be impractical to do so' in a June 23 email to Daniels, noting that the proposal for a vehicle interchange at Carrs Creek Road last was considered in 2000, when construction of the Foothills Parkway's 'Missing Link' segment was initiated."

HISTORIC HENSLEY SETTLEMENT AT CUMBERLAND GAP CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING. The AP (7/17, Press, 5.03M) reports that "a popular attraction at Cumberland Gap National Historic Park has closed due to flooding." According to the article, "the historic Hensley Settlement has been closed for the rest of the season because officials say the road leading to the site has become too dangerous to travel on."

MOUNT RUSHMORE SOCIETY UNVEILS NEW YOUTH SHELTER AT MEMORIAL. The [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (7/19, 149K) reports that "since Mount Rushmore National Memorial opened, National Park Service rangers have been using a temporary tent that wasn't a very convenient classroom for teaching young children about the presidents' faces, Black Hills wildlife and area history." Recently, the Mount Rushmore Society "unveiled its newest gift to the memorial: the Youth Exploration Area Children's Shelter, a nearly \$400,000 project that has been four years in the making." According to Gary Keller, development director for the society, "the society received national and local contributions to build the structure, with hopes that the monument's education programs will continue expanding."

NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ANNOUNCED. The [Valley News \(VT\)](#) (7/19, 11K) reports that "Rick Kendall has been named superintendent of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and the National Park Service Stewardship Institute, both in Woodstock, and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Comish." Kendall "succeeds Michael Creasey, who became superintendent at the National Parks of Boston in June."

OFFICIALS SCALE BACK SEARCH FOR MAN MISSING IN BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK. The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (7/20, 557K) reports that "officials on Sunday curtailed the search for a Nebraska man who has been missing since Thursday in Badlands National Park in South Dakota."

SWIMMER DROWNS TRYING TO CROSS DELAWARE RIVER. The [Lehigh Valley \(PA\) Express Times](#) (7/19, 230K) reports that "a 41-year-old from Lebanon County drowned Saturday while trying to swim across the Delaware River in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, park officials said."

NYTIMES CRITICIZES GOP EFFORT TO REVERSE "CAUTIOUS, SENSIBLE" WATER BOTTLE BAN. In

an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/18, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) praises the National Park Service's "cautious, sensible policy that allows parks to ban the sale of plastic water bottles" as an "excellent strategy to eliminate a big source of the litter that befouls many parks" while criticizing Republican efforts to reverse the three-year-old policy.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/19, 985K).

SMOKIES SUPERINTENDENT SEEKS TO CONNECT WITH YOUNG, DIVERSE AUDIENCES. In his column for the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (7/19, 332K), Michael Sainato writes that "to connect with younger generations, Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials are taking great strides to connect with the increasingly younger and diverse population of the United States." Cassius Cash, superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, "took office four months ago after his success in doubling attendance as superintendent of the Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site in Massachusetts." Cash is "now focusing his efforts on connecting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with young and diverse audiences."

Additional coverage of diversity in national parks was addressed in letters to the [New York Times](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication, 12.24M).

NPS PRAISED FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE. In a piece for the [Denver Post](#) (7/19, Limerick, 894K), Patty Limerick, faculty director and chair of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado, writes about how she was helped by the Acadia National Park Service Search and Rescue team. Limerick will also talk about her experience in an upcoming speech in the Rocky Mountain National Park Centennial Speaker Series.

US Geological Survey:

CLIMATE CHANGE COULD POSE NEW RISK TO HAWAII BIRD POPULATIONS. The [AP](#) (7/19, 2.29M) reports that "indigenous Hawaiian bird populations could face new challenges posed by global climate change over the next century, according to researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the U.S. Geological Survey." According to the article, "rising temperatures and increased rainfall could allow mosquitoes to survive at higher elevations." The article notes that "currently, the isles' high-elevation forests are a mosquito-free refuge for some birds because the cold temperature acts as a natural barrier to the mosquitoes."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT FACES UPHILL BATTLE IN CONGRESS. The State Department on Sunday sent the Iran nuclear agreement to Congress. According to [Reuters](#) (7/20), a statement from the Department said the 60-day review period before a congressional vote on the agreement will begin Monday. This, as Secretary of State Kerry and Energy Secretary Moniz appeared on the Sunday talk shows to defend the deal – amid criticism on the same shows from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Republican lawmakers. While only two of the network news broadcasts covered the story, print and online coverage is quite extensive, with some reports focusing on the Kerry and Moniz interviews and others on the coming battle in Congress, where the agreement is generally described as facing an uphill climb.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Morello, 5.03M) describes the interviews as "part of an aggressive campaign by the Obama administration to defend the deal," and notes that Kerry "said that if opponents in Congress get enough votes to override a presidential veto, the consequences will be dire," telling CBS' "Face the Nation," "If Congress says no to this deal, then there will be no restraints on Iran, there will be no sanctions left. ... Our friends in this effort will desert us. We will be viewed as having killed the opportunity to stop them from having weapons." [The Hill](#) (7/19, Hensch, 533K) reported that Kerry said "the possibility of not finalizing an agreement over Iran's nuclear arms research should scare the entire world." On CNN's "State of the Union," Kerry said, "The fact is the real fear of that region should be if we don't have the deal. ... If Congress doesn't pass this, we have no sanctions. ... They will then feel free to go and do the very thing this prevents."

On its website, [Voice of America](#) (7/19, 63K) noted that the "series of high-profile television appearances" on Sunday marked the first time Kerry addressed the American people since signing off on the deal. Kerry, VOA reported, said the agreement "likely won't restart diplomatic relations with Tehran," telling ABC's "This Week" that a "visit by the secretary to Iran is 'not being contemplated,'" adding, "We don't have relations at this point." [Reuters](#) (7/19, Antonov) also reports that on CBS, Kerry said of Iran, "We're still adversaries. We're not allies

and friends by any means.”

[Politico](#) (7/19, Robillard, 1.11M) reported that as he and Moniz sought to “sell the administration’s deal aimed at blocking Iran from developing nuclear weapons,” Kerry “made clear the administration believed it got the best possible deal by extending Iran’s ‘breakout’ time to 10 years,” telling CNN, “They had it. ... That’s what Barack Obama was dealt as a hand when he came in, 19,000 centrifuges already spinning, a country that had already mastered the fuel cycle, a country that already was threshold, in the sense that they are only two months away from breakout.”

Kerry also said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (7/19, Dickerson, 2.64M), “Everybody should be suspicious [of the agreement]. We’re suspicious, which is why we negotiated a deal that is not based on trust at all. This deal is based on performance that can be verified. That is critical. ... We negotiated because President Obama thought the primary challenge here was getting a nuclear weapon away from Iran and we believe this deal does that.” On [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (7/19, Todd, 3.08M), Kerry said, “We have a plan to deal with pushback by Iran with respect to interdiction, stopping the flow of weapons, dealing with counterterrorism, and dealing with special forces training and capacity for some of those other countries. There will be plenty of pushback. But the simple reality is, if you’re going to push back against Iran, it’s better to push back against an Iran that doesn’t have a nuclear weapon rather than one that does.”

Asked why the US would lift the arms embargo under the agreement, Kerry said on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (7/19, Tapper, 420K), “We’re not lifting it. It has eight years out of a ten-year component of the UN resolution. Eight years it will be applied. We have other UN resolutions and other mechanisms for holding Iran accountable on missiles. The simple reality is this UN process, that allowed the sanctions to be put in place in the first place, contemplated the lifting of all sanctions once Iran had lived up to its obligations with respect to the MPT. So if the IAEA found in X number of years that they have lived up to this, then all the sanctions would be gone.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/20, Wolfgang, 641K) says Kerry “pushed back hard Sunday against the idea that it conceded key ground in the recent nuclear deal with Iran, denying that the US and its international partners ever pursued unfettered, 24/7 access to the Islamic republic’s nuclear sites.” On [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/19, Wallace), Kerry “denied that he and other administration officials ever asked for ‘anywhere, anytime’ inspections,” saying, “I never in four years had discussions about anytime, anywhere. ... The fact is that in arms control, there is no country anywhere on this planet that has anywhere, anytime. There is no such standard in arms control.” Moniz “said the 24-day waiting period is sufficient.” Moniz said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (7/19, Raddatz, 2.73M), “It was anytime, anywhere in the sense of a well-defined process that would have a well-defined conclusion in time. Three weeks for a process of this type is reasonable. Most important, we’re very confident in our ability to detect vestiges of any nuclear work beyond 24 days.”

In an analysis, the [AP](#) (7/20, Lee) reports that if the agreement holds, it “will leave Kerry a lasting diplomatic legacy.” Meanwhile, in his column for the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Diehl, 5.03M), Jackson Diehl compares the President’s handling of Iran to President Reagan’s treatment of the Soviet Union. Noting that “the administration’s own experts...expect Iranian aggression to escalate rather than diminish,” Diehl writes that while Reagan’s “contribution to the collapse of Soviet communism was an epochal achievement,” the “most likely effect of [Obama’s] engagement policy is not the implosion of the Islamic republic, but its perpetuation.”

Kristen Welker reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 6, 1:00, Holt, 7.86M) that White House officials “know it will be an uphill battle to get Congress to approve the deal.” The President “wants to nail down a veto-proof majority, and that means getting a number of his fellow Democrats on board.” [The Hill](#) (7/19, Lillis, 533K) called the agreement “the latest test of the Democrats’ loyalty toward their ally in the White House.” It is a difficult issue for Democrats, [The Hill](#) noted, “because it represents Obama’s top foreign policy goal in his second term, but is strongly opposed by Israel’s government.” The politics are “further complicated” by “Republicans’ near-unanimous objections,” as Democrats “wary of the deal might not want a role in helping the GOP kill it.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/20, Gordon, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that Kerry’s efforts during the negotiations to put off a UN Security Council vote on lifting sanctions until Congress reviewed the deal were rebuffed, and “as the Obama administration submitted the Iran nuclear agreement to Congress for what promises to be a raucous 60-day debate, Mr. Kerry and President Obama began grappling with the fallout of that decision.” According to the Times, at least “two senior Democrats have joined the Republican leadership in complaining that the Security Council action, expected Monday morning, would pre-empt the congressional debate.” Sen. Ben Cardin said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/19, Wallace), “Fortunately, with Congress having 60 days to review the agreement, we’ll take that time in order to understand it and ask our questions and get our

answers.”

On the Sunday shows, Republican lawmakers voiced vehement opposition to the deal. On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (7/19, Tapper, 420K), Sen. Marco Rubio said, “People have to understand that the American portion of the agreement, which consist of sanctions, were passed by Congress. They are in the law today. The way the President is going to lift those sanctions is by the use of a national security waiver. The next President of the United States simply has to undo the use of the waiver and the sanctions will be reinstated. That’s what I would do as president.” Meanwhile, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (7/19, Tapper, 420K), “[The Iran nuclear deal] is a bad deal. It’s a bad deal for us. It’s a bad deal for Israel. It’s a bad deal for the region.”

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (7/19), “The zeal for the deal led to a situation where, at the last minute, Iran and Russia got what they wanted. We got rolled at the end.”

Rep. Will Hurd said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (7/19, Tapper, 420K), “The problem with this deal is that there’s been absolutely no confidence-building measures with Iran. How can we trust them to do what they say they’re going to do? Being able to get in to see their facilities at any time, any place, will allow us to make sure that we understand what’s going on.”

On [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/19, Wallace), Sen. John Barrasso said, “There is bipartisan skepticism about this deal. There’s a huge difference between even the framework of three months ago and the deal that just got released the other day, which is very complicated. The inspections were supposed to be anytime, anywhere, 24/7. And now it’s going to be 24 days. This is a last minute concession because this Administration was so desperate to get any deal signed. ... It is an absolute mistake. It is a concession and almost surrender by the President to get any deal signed.” On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/19, Todd, 3.08M), Sen. Tom Cotton said, “The United States’ sanctions are most important and I’m confident the American people, as they learn more about this agreement, will repudiate it and Congress will ultimately reject it.”

Netanyahu: Deal Is A “Dream” For Iran. The Administration is also trying to quell fears about the deal among US allies in the Middle East, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Lee, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports. The Journal notes that the strongest pushes are being made to Israel and Saudi Arabia, adding that there have been repeated offers to increase the \$3 billion US military aid package to Israel. However, Netanyahu remains unconvinced. According to [Bloomberg News](#) (7/19, Rohner, 3.81M), Netanyahu said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (7/19, Dickerson, 2.64M), “[Iran] has just received a dream deal. It may get a deal that may block or delay Iran’s path to one or two bombs over the next few years, assuming they don’t cheat. But the deal will pave their way to many, many bombs after a decade or so because they will become a threshold state with full international legitimacy.” The [AP](#) (7/19) notes that Netanyahu said Iran “doesn’t ‘even try to hide the fact’ that it will use a looming lifting of sanctions to further arm regional militant groups and to oppose American and Israeli interests around the Middle East.”

Netanyahu also took issue with Moniz’s claim that the US is confident in its ability to detect nuclear work beyond 24 days, telling [ABC's This Week](#) (7/19, Raddatz, 2.73M), “I have great respect for our intelligence services, they’re the best in the world – Israel’s, the US, and the UK. Yet, all of three of us didn’t see for a long time the nuclear bunkers. We didn’t see the Syrian work on a nuclear reactor that was almost operational when we discovered it. So, you know, I have full respect for our intelligence, but it’s very thin ice.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/20, Wolfgang, 641K) says Netanyahu “hinted that he will lobby Congress to kill the agreement.” However, a [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/19, Murphy, 539K) analysis noted that while Netanyahu “and his political allies in the US and Israel have long been opposed to a negotiated settlement that lifts sanctions on Iran while allowing it to retain some nuclear infrastructure,” he has been “light on...offering realistic alternatives.”

Carter In Israel To Deepen US, Israeli Security Ties. As he traveled to Tel Aviv on Sunday, Defense Secretary Carter told reporters “he has no expectation of persuading Israeli leaders to drop their opposition to the Iran nuclear deal, but will instead emphasize that the accord imposes no limits on what Washington can do to ensure the security of Israel and US Arab allies,” the [AP](#) (7/20, Burns) reports. Carter, who is scheduled to meet with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon on Monday and Netanyahu on Tuesday before traveling to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, said, “Our ability to carry out that strategy is unchanged.” [Reuters](#) (7/20, Stewart) quotes Carter as saying of the Iran agreement, “I’m not going to change anybody’s mind in Israel. That’s not the purpose of my trip.” Reuters says Carter will focus on deepening security ties between the US and Israel.

Bahrain Summons Iran's Charge D'Affaires. AFP (7/20) reports that Bahrain on Sunday summoned acting Iranian charge d'affaires, Mortaza Sanubari, "to protest against its supreme leader voicing support for 'oppressed people' across the Middle East including in Bahrain, state media said." According to BNA news agency, Bahrain's foreign ministry "handed 'an official protest memorandum'" to Sanubari "over 'statements made by Ali Khamenei against the kingdom of Bahrain.'" This, after Khamenei said Saturday that "the nuclear deal reached between Tehran and world powers would not alter Iran's support for the governments of Syria and Iraq, nor its backing for 'oppressed people' in Yemen and Bahrain, and the Palestinians."

Cameron: Deal Is "Better Than The Alternative." On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/19, Todd, 3.08M), British Prime Minister David Cameron said of the agreement, "I think it's so much better than the alternative. If there wasn't a deal, I think we would have to face Iran with a nuclear weapon. ... This is the better outcome. It keeps Iran from a nuclear weapon. It is a successful negotiation for the allies and I think we should be proud of a good deal done."

Lobbying Efforts Underway As Congress Prepares To Consider Deal. The [AP](#) (7/20, Riechmann) reports that as Kerry and Moniz, who "blanketed the Sunday news shows," are "set to brief lawmakers this coming week," lobbying efforts are also underway. Israel's ambassador to the US "raced in and out of offices on Capitol Hill, trying to persuade lawmakers that the nuclear deal with Iran is a historic mistake," while "liberal groups ramped up the pressure, warning of political consequences for Democrats who undermine the agreement and casting opposition as a vote for war." Meanwhile, "politically influential groups in each camp" have launched "multimillion-dollar ad campaigns."

Crude Oil Prices Down Amid Prospect Of Iranian Oil Coming Online. Jill Schlesinger said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 6, 1:55, Glor, 5.08M), "Iran has the fourth largest proven oil reserve in the world. So what they're going to start to do if this deal gets signed is they're going to sell what's ever in storage or sitting in tankers." Schlesinger added that while it could "take a couple of years" for Iran "to restart operations in the field," just "the notion of that additional supply coming online, crude oil [is] down 10 percent in the last two weeks."

WPost Editor Calls For Rezaian's Release. The [Washington Post](#) (7/20, Williams, 5.03M) reported in its "Post Politics" blog that in an appearance on CNN's "Reliable Sources" on Sunday, Post executive editor Martin Baron "reiterated his call for the release of correspondent Jason Rezaian," who has been detained in Iran for a year. Baron "declined to say whether the fate of Rezaian and other Americans being held by Iran should have been tied to the deal to limit Iran's nuclear program," but said "he took the Obama administration at its word that it is continuing to work for Rezaian's release."

INVESTIGATORS CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR MOTIVE IN CHATTANOOGA SHOOTINGS. Coverage of last week's shootings at two military sites in Chattanooga was considerably lighter on the three network news broadcasts – which spent six minutes and 55 seconds on the story Sunday evening – and in print coverage this morning. Much of the reporting focuses on investigators' ongoing search for a motive, including the as yet unsubstantiated suspicion that gunman Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez was inspired by ISIL.

Thomas Roberts reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 3, 2:25, Roberts, 7.86M) that as investigators continue to search for a motive, Abdulazeez's family "says their son suffered from depression." Miguel Almaguer added that before the shooting, Abdulazeez "sent a friend a text message with a link to an Islamic version including this line – whosoever shows enmity to a friend of mine, then I have declared war against him." According to a "senior law enforcement official," Abdulazeez "spent some time at a shooting range before the bloodshed," and there is "no clear indication he was radicalized by any terror group." Jericka Duncan reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 2, 2:10, Glor, 5.08M) that investigators "say they have received nearly 250 leads," adding that Abdulazeez had "an AK-47, an AR-15 assault rifle and a .45 caliber handgun" with him at the time of the shootings.

Jim Avila reported on [ABC World News](#) (7/19, story 5, 2:20, Llamas, 5.84M) that a source close to Abdulazeez's family said he was "in depression, troubled mentally after a DUI arrest in April that left him frightened and embarrassed." According to the source, "the family is cooperating with the FBI and told investigators their son's seven-month journey to their home country of Jordan last year was designed to get him away from bad influences in the US and although he was a devout Muslim, he was conflicted, using alcohol and marijuana against the rules of Islam." [Reuters](#) (7/20, Bernstein) says the Chattanooga shootings have exacerbated the concerns among Muslim leaders nationwide who are striving to prevent the radicalization of young people in their mosques.

[USA Today](#) (7/20, Onyanga-Omara, Toppo, 5.01M) reports that House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Mike McCaul said Sunday that the FBI is examining Abdulazeez's cellphone and computer "to determine whether he was...involved with the Islamic State terrorist group." In addition, the Chattanooga Times-Free Press reported that investigators are "looking into Abdulazeez's recent trip to Jordan." Meanwhile, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam "called for a review of security at National Guard armories and other military installations." Haslam said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/19, Todd, 3.08M), "The FBI has been incredible in terms of being willing to chase down every lead, working with state law enforcement to ascertain...what caused this person to do what he did. I have a lot of faith they're going to drill down on exactly what happened."

[Reuters](#) (7/20, Shalal) reports that McCaul said Sunday that lawmakers will look into possible law enforcement or intelligence deficiencies in the Chattanooga shootings, telling [ABC's This Week](#) (7/19, Raddatz, 2.73M) that the case underscores concerns about ISIL issuing directives over the Internet, which he said are "very hard to stop."

Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (7/19, Dickerson, 2.64M), "I have said before: We're either going to fight [ISIL] over there [in the Middle East] or fight them here at home. ... We have to understand that there are lots of people out there who are going to succumb to the online propaganda and do these kind of things."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (7/19), "I think the governors are going to arm the National Guard [in response to the Chattanooga shootings]. And now the question is: Can Congress make certain that our Marines, when they're in a situation like this, have the ability to defend themselves?"

The [New York Times](#) (7/20, Fausset, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports on the community reaction in Chattanooga, noting that expressions of "patriotism and pride [were] the most visible emotion during the weekend," but "there was also anger toward Mr. Abdulazeez, a Kuwaiti-born, locally raised 24-year-old, combined with soul-searching among some non-Muslims about their feelings toward the religion and its adherents."

WTimes, WPost Assess Administration Efforts To Defeat Muslim Extremists. The [Washington Times](#) (7/20, Wolfgang, 641K) says the Chattanooga shooting has "renewed the national debate over whether the administration is doing enough to defeat Muslim extremist groups around the world, and whether the federal government needs to rethink long-standing policies prohibiting military personnel from carrying firearms on bases." The Times notes that for the President, the shooting is "yet another reminder that US military personnel, police and civilians sometimes are in danger on American soil." While the President "said protecting Americans at home and around the world is his top priority," some analysts "say the issue of confronting terrorism often has taken a back seat to domestic issues."

In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, A1, Gibbons-Neff, 5.03M) notes the "increasingly daunting odds that US counterterrorism agencies face in an era marked by surging Islamist propaganda and a proliferation of disparate, self-radicalized, one-off threats." While the FBI and DHS "have launched sweeping initiatives aimed at shoring up their ties to Muslim communities across the country," in "many ways the bureau is working against itself," as the "Muslim communities that security agencies depend on for cooperation," have been alienated by the "arrests of suspects accused of planning travel to Syria, sting operations and expanded surveillance."

UNDER FIRE FROM RIVALS, TRUMP REFUSES TO APOLOGIZE FOR REMARKS ON MCCAIN. Donald Trump's remarks on Saturday at a forum hosted by the Family Leadership Summit in Iowa, where he first asserted that Sen. John McCain, a former POW, was "not a war hero," continued to roil the 2016 GOP presidential race yesterday. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 4, 2:20, Goldman, 5.08M) reported that when asked on Sunday whether he should offer an apology to McCain, Trump said he didn't. Trump was shown saying, "You know, not at all. When I left the room, it was a total standing ovation. It was wonderful to see. Nobody was insulted." CBS added that Trump's GOP "rivals and party officials say otherwise." For example, Sen. Marco Rubio, a fellow GOP White House hopeful, was shown saying of Trump, "What he said yesterday, of course, is offensive about John McCain and inaccurate about John McCain. But it actually is offensive to all POWs."

[ABC World News](#) (7/19, story 4, 2:05, Dwyer, 5.84M) reported that "Trump is not backing down." ABC's Martha Raddatz was shown asking Trump, "What could McCain have done not to be captured?", to which the billionaire replied, "Well I do say this. People that fought hard and weren't captured, they get no credit. Nobody talks about

them – they're like forgotten."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 2, 2:45, 7.86M), Kelly O'Donnell reported that in an interview she conducted on Sunday with GOP presidential candidate Gov. Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Republican said "that it is time for Trump to apologize" for his remarks about McCain. Walker was shown saying, "At a minimum he needs to apologize," later adding, "I think more people need to push him. And not just candidates or elected officials. I think more people from across America including some of those who may have been up till now supporters of his." For his part, said O'Donnell, Trump "appears impervious to the heat," saying in a Sunday interview that his "jealous competitors want him to quit."

[McClatchy](#) (7/19, Lightman, 32K) reports that Trump on Sunday "wouldn't back down" from his remarks, while his GOP "rivals continued questioning whether" he "was fit to be president." Trump, appearing on ABC's "This Week," declared, "I will say what I want to say, and maybe that's why I'm leading in the polls, because people are tired of hearing politicians and pollsters telling the politicians exactly what to say." Rubio, appearing on CNN's "State of the Union," said that Trump's remarks are "a disqualifier as commander in chief."

Similarly, GOP presidential candidate Rick Perry said Sunday on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/19, Todd, 3.08M), "I still stand by my statement: Until Mr. Trump apologizes directly to John McCain and also to the veterans of this country, I don't think he has the character or the temperament to hold the highest position in this country."

The [AP](#) (7/20, Pace) reports that while a number of other Republican hopefuls, "including Jeb Bush, Rick Perry and Scott Walker, were similarly critical of Trump," the billionaire "seemed to bask in his McCain takedown." Speaking with the AP on Sunday, Trump said, "You know the Republican Party – of course I was one of their darlings when I was a contributor. I went from a darling to somebody that they're not happy with because I'm not a politician."

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/19, Blumenthal, 194K) reported that Trump, during his appearance on ABC's "This Week," not only declined to apologize to McCain, but he also "demanded an apology from" the Arizona Republican for saying "that the billionaire candidate was firing up the 'crazies' with his anti-immigrant rhetoric."

[USA Today](#) (7/20, Page, Jackson, 5.01M) reports that a pair of national polls out last week showed Trump leading the GOP field after he had depicted "Mexican immigrants as rapists and drug dealers." USA Today adds that while those remarks were criticized by most of the other GOP hopefuls, "albeit cautiously," the current controversy "changes the dynamic," as Trump "now finds himself on the defensive against a host of critics."

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (7/20, A1, Haberman, Barbaro, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that Trump's comments "ended any qualms party officials had about criticizing" him "for fear of alienating his supporters." In addition, "the dangers of Mr. Trump's approach" to campaigning for president "are now being laid bare. Bare-bones improvisation, which seemed sufficient to fuel his ascent in the polls, is starting to backfire."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/20, Wolfgang, 641K) reports that in the wake of his remarks about McCain, some "conservative leaders say Mr. Trump doesn't belong in the race." Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," Heritage Action CEO Michael Needham said, "Donald Trump is a clown ... He needs to be out of the race."

Republicans weren't the only ones slamming Trump over his remarks. [Politico](#) (7/19, Kami, 1.11M) reported that Hillary Clinton, speaking at an Arkansas Democratic Party event on Saturday, slammed Trump over the remarks he made about McCain and what she said is "the hate he is spewing at immigrants and families," telling the audience, "It's shameful, and so is the fact that it took so long for his fellow Republican candidates to start standing up to him. The sad truth is if you look at many of their policies, it can be hard to tell the difference."

And Democratic presidential candidate Jim Webb said on [ABC's This Week](#) (7/19, Raddatz, 2.73M), "I believe if Donald Trump had taken the opportunity to serve our country – he could have volunteered like a lot of people did – he would have had a different feeling the kind of things he's saying."

In Op-Ed, Trump Says McCain Has "Abandoned Our Veterans." In a [USA Today](#) (7/20, 5.01M) op-ed, Trump does not address the controversial remarks he made about McCain, but asserts that the 2008 GOP presidential nominee "has failed the state of Arizona and the country" by having "abandoned our veterans." Trump writes, "Thanks to McCain and his Senate colleague Bemie Sanders, their legislation to cover up the VA scandal, in which 1,000+ veterans died waiting for medical care, made sure no one has been punished, charged, jailed, fined or held responsible." Trump goes on to tout his own "record of veteran support."

And Trump, appearing Sunday on [ABC's This Week](#) (7/19, Raddatz, 2.73M), said, "I'm very disappointed in John McCain because the vets are horribly treated in this country. ... They're treated like third citizens. He's done nothing to help the vets."

Politico: On Draft Deferment, A "Pattern Of Evasive Answers" From Trump. [Politico](#) (7/19, Rogers, 1.11M) reported that there has been a "pattern of evasive answers" that Trump has given about the medical deferment he received in 1968 that resulted in him not being eligible for the draft during the Vietnam War. A Saturday statement from his campaign said, "While attending the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Finance, Mr. Trump received a minor medical deferment for bone spurs on both heels of his feet. The medical deferment was expected to be short-term." However, Politico said that Trump's "medical deferment is listed for October 1968, months after he had left Wharton." In addition, while the Trump camp said the deferment "was 'expected to be short-term,' there is no evidence in the records of it being dropped before the draft lottery in 1969."

California GOP Concerned Trump Will Damage Its Image. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/20, Decker, 4.03M) reports that California Republicans have long sought "to change their party's image" by seeking to expand the GOP's appeal. However, the GOP's "negative national image has long thwarted the state party's efforts to reboot its image, particularly among women and Latinos." The Times adds that Trump, with his controversial remarks on Mexican immigrants, "appears to be an undeniable threat to perpetuate that problem."

WSJournal, USA Today Criticize Trump. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) criticizes Trump over his remarks about McCain, and adds that conservative members of the media who defend the billionaire are doing a disservice to the GOP.

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (7/20, 5.01M) calls Trump's remarks about McCain a "classless attack," and adds that the billionaire's "mouth will keep moving, and one day it will open wide and swallow his candidacy whole."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Japan Wrestles With Its Pacifism." A [New York Times](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorial welcomes a vote last week in the Japanese Parliament brought Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that would "give the Japanese armed forces limited powers to engage in foreign combat for the first time since World War II." But the Times says "the way Mr. Abe engineered the victory has caused great anxiety about whether he intends to honor Japan's deep postwar commitment to pacifism."

"How Not To Fix The F.D.A." An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (7/20, A18, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) argues that the 21st Century Cures Act, which has been passed by the House, "is loaded with bad provisions" that weaken the FDA's "already flimsy regulation of medical devices," allow "a drug to be tested on humans based on only limited evidence that it is safe and effective," and provide financial benefits to drug manufacturers without benefits. The Times concludes that the Senate "needs to cure its many flaws, while also providing sufficient funds to the F.D.A. to meet its ever-increasing workload."

WASHINGTON POST. "The Uber Debate." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, 5.03M) says that Uber has become a "hot-button topic" in the presidential elections. Republicans, "predictably, love Uber," while Democrats are "warier." The Post says it strongly backs the service, but argues that it needs to submit to reasonable regulation. The Post says that there is "no reason 2016 contenders eager to embrace Uber should not also be thinking of ways to regulate ride-sharing responsibly."

"Time For Oversight Of Dangerous Chemicals." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, 5.03M) says that the government is "failing at protecting the public from dangerous chemicals." Now, Congress is "nearly done with a comprehensive overhaul of the law — but Washington will finish the job only if lawmakers and the interests pressuring them don't make the perfect the enemy of the good." The Post backs the Senate version over that of the House, which has drawn the ire of activists for making it more difficult for states to regulate chemicals.

"Nine Minutes Of Obfuscation." An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (7/20, 5.03M) says that in a nine-minute video in which he recapped the Feb. 8 death of Natasha McKenna in the custody of Fairfax County sheriff's deputies, Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. "managed to reveal absolutely nothing." The Post calls Roessler's comments "little more than an exercise in obfuscation," and calls on Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh to "deliver a much fuller accounting to the public of the circumstances leading to Ms.

McKenna's death — including release of the video — than the sheriff and police have managed.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “*Trump And His Apologists.*” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) criticizes Donald Trump over his remarks about Sen. John McCain, and adds that conservative members of the media who defend the billionaire are doing a disservice to the GOP.

“*College Aid Means Higher Tuition.*” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) in an editorial cites a report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York finding that federal aid leads to higher tuition at colleges and universities. At the same time the report finds that increased aid does not appear to lead to increased college enrollment. It also found that less prestigious private schools were affected the most by aid.

“*Korea's Samsung Watershed.*” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorializes that the win of the Lee family which controls the Samsung corporation against minority shareholders last week represents an important moment for corporate government in South Korea. The Journal says that despite the win, the days of the country's chaebol system of business control are numbered and that it is limiting South Korea's economy, calling for more competition and foreign investors in Samsung.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- [SF Slaying Puts Focus On Jails Program](#)
- [Weird Weather](#)
- [LA County Poised To Raise Wages](#)
- [They're Natural Porn Trillers](#)
- [Saudi Women Are Finding Ways Into The Workplace](#)

Wall Street Journal:

- [US Seeks To Allay Allies' Concerns On Iran](#)
- [Bidding Wars Return To Home Market](#)
- [Clinton To Push Revamp Of Capital-Gains Tax Rates](#)
- [Frenzy Around Jet.com Harks Back To Dot-Com Boom](#)

New York Times:

- [As Beijing Becomes A Supercity, The Rapid Growth Brings Pains](#)
- [Who Advises Candidate Trump? \(Hint: His Name Is Donald\)](#)
- [For GOP Pope Francis's Visit To Congress Comes With Tensions](#)
- [A Wizard At Prying Government Secrets From The Government](#)
- [A Manhattan McDonald's With Many Off-The-Menu Sales](#)

Washington Post:

- [Kerry Defends Iran Accord](#)
- [Killings Spark Fury, Demands For Action In Tenn](#)
- [Consensus For Sex Education; Division Over What To Teach](#)
- [NRA's Support Helped Put Sanders In Congress](#)
- ["That's It. We're Dry."](#)

Financial Times:

- [YouTube Advertisers Increase 40 Percent In Year](#)
- [Climate Talks Advancing Faster Towards December Deal](#)

Washington Times:

- [Number Of Illegals Levels Off; Fewer Crossing Mexico Border](#)
- [Green Beret Who Shot Taliban Stripped Of Silver Star](#)
- [Attacks On US Soil Raise Doubts About Obama's Resolve To Fight Islamist Terror](#)
- [Ex-Abortionist On Fetal Tissue Harvesting: "I Lived That Life"](#)
- [Obama To Hail VA Progress As Problems Mount](#)
- [Rolling Stone: White House Adviser Introduced Rape Accuser](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather, Weather Forecast; Bill Cosby Allegations-Details; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Tennessee Terror Attack-Gunman; Texas Jail-Inmate Suicide; George HW Bush-Released From Hospital; California Fires-Drone Delays.
CBS: Bill Cosby Allegations-Details; Tennessee Terror Attack-Gunman; George HW Bush-released From Hospital; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Cuba-US Diplomacy; Iran Nuclear Deal-Economic Effects; State Of The Climate Report.
NBC: Bill Cosby Allegations-Details; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Tennessee Terror Attack-Gunman; Texas Jail-Inmate Suicide; Severe Weather-Flooding; Iran Nuclear Deal-Congress; Cuba-US Diplomacy.

Network TV At A Glance:

Bill Cosby Allegations-Details – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Donald Trump-Veteran Comments – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
Tennessee Terror Attack-Gunman – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Mississippi Police-Shooting Protests; Indiana Governor-Tennessee Shooting Reaction; Severe Weather-Flooding; Cuban Embassy Opening; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; George HW Bush-Released From Hospital.
CBS: Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Severe Weather-California Overpass Collapse; Tennessee Terror Attack-Memorial; Cuban Embassy Reopened-Washington DC; Defense Secretary Carter-Israel Trip; Secretary Kerry-Iran Deal Defense.
NPR: Defense Secretary Carter-Israel Trip; Cuban Embassy Reopened-Washington DC; Donald Trump Veteran Comments-Republican Reaction; Severe Weather-California; Japanese Companies-POW Apology.
FOX: Iran Nuclear Deal-Congress; Cuba-US Diplomacy; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Arizona-Severe Flooding; Texas Jail-Inmate Suicide.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari at the White House; delivers remarks at a reception for the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: 2 p.m. — The House will meet for Pro Forma Session. No votes are expected.

Other: July 20 – 24. **FORENSICS SYMPOSIUM** — The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and its partners present the first-ever international symposium devoted exclusively to the topic of forensic science error management. Speakers, panels and posters addressing the ways to detect, measure and mitigate forensic science errors will open dialog about these "taboo topics." Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA.

BEAUTIFYING ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY — Media invited to observe as hundreds of landscape industry professionals volunteer at Arlington National Cemetery to beautify and improve more than one quarter of the cemetery's historic grounds. Organized by the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) the Renewal & Remembrance event involves more than 400 volunteer landscape professionals from across the country. 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Opening Ceremony at the James R. Tanner Amphitheater (formerly the Old Amphitheater) in Arlington National Cemetery. Senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire will deliver a keynote address at the opening ceremony. Arlington National Cemetery Deputy Superintendent Brion Moore, NALP president Scott Jamieson and others will speak briefly before a group photo is taken. 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Cemetery beautification projects begin on more than 200 acres in the cemetery: Installing trees with cabling and lightning protection, liming, aerating, gypsum application, landscaping and irrigation related work. Note: Sen. Ayotte helped her husband launch a small landscaping and snow removal business prior to her Senate service, and she will volunteer alongside landscape professionals from her home state of New Hampshire. 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. A child representing NALP will place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Twenty children of NALP members (ages 3-13) plant flowers on the cemetery grounds. 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Irrigation work and tree cabling continues. Some grounds work still in process.

HIGHWAY SAFETY — 10 a.m. Media Conference Call hosted by Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety. On the day before the multi-year, multi-billion dollar surface transportation reauthorization legislation may come to the U.S. Senate Floor, consumer, public health and safety groups and crash victims' families will join members of Congress to launch a renewed push to include lifesaving highway and vehicle safety provisions in the "Safety Title." Jackie Gillan, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety; Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Member, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, co-sponsor "Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 2015" (S. 1743); Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA), Member, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, co-sponsor S. 1743; Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director, American Public Health Association; Angelina Sujata, Takata airbag victim who sustained serious injuries; Lindsey Rogers-Seitz, Esq., child safety advocate and Colorado mother of Benjamin Seitz who lost his life after being unknowingly left alone in a hot vehicle by his father; Jackie Novak, a Hendersonville, NC mother whose son Chuck and his girlfriend Theresa Seaver were killed in a crash in October 2010; Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs, Consumer Federation of America; Joan Claybrook, Chair, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), and former Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

U.S. CHAMBER – NIGERIAN PRESIDENT — 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Corporate Council on Africa will host the President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, for a dinner and keynote address on strengthening ties between the United States and Nigeria by promoting bilateral trade and combating security threats. Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Donald Trump took a shot at Rick Pery on Twitter yesterday and said he should be forced to take an IQ test before being allowed to enter the GOP debates, to which Pery responded, 'I'd gladly take an IQ test. Just tell me which cup to pee in.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Donald Trump's campaign has surprised a lot of people because he's actually starting to lead in the polls. He's even raised about \$100,000 in donations during the second quarter, which raises a very important question: Who is giving Donald Trump money?"

Jimmy Fallon: "In a recent interview, John McCain addressed Trump's campaign rally in Arizona and said that he just, quote, 'Fired up the crazies.' Not to be confused with Trump's show 'Celebrity Apprentice,' where he just fires the crazies."

Jimmy Fallon: "And get this – during a speech yesterday, Hillary Clinton revealed that she wrote to NASA when she was 14 to ask how she could become an astronaut. While Bill Clinton also wrote to NASA when he was 14 asking how he could get some Tang."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama became the first sitting president to visit a Federal prison yesterday. Obama said it was a good chance to talk about prison reform and to catch up with so many former congressmen."

Seth Meyers: "According to a new poll, 65 percent of Americans do not consider Donald Trump to be a serious presidential candidate. That's nearly two-out-of-his-three wives, to give you a sense of that number."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, July 27, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Jul 27, 2015 at 7:01 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, JULY 27, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Obama Administration Seeking To Ban Ivory Sales.
- + Obama Administration Urged To Prepare For Reynolds Creek Fire.
- + New National Monument Surrounding Bears Ears Could Be Created.
- + Interior-EPA Spending Bill Stalled On Confederate Battle Flag Issue.
- + Deal To Reauthorize LWCF Received Mixed Reactions From Heads Of House Committee.
- + North Slope Borough Bought Gifts For Officials.
- + Over \$400 Million In PILT Funding Distributed.
- + Report Says Federal Agencies Should Share Data To Fight Climate Change.
- + Western States Debate On Taking Over Federal Lands.
- + Browns Canyon National Monument Designation Celebrated.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + 1988 Model Indian Juvenile Code Being Updated.
- + Assistant Secretary Washburn, Special Trustee Meet With National Congress Of American Indians.
- + Land Buy-back Offers For Peck Reservation Reservations To Be Recalculated.
- + Eastern Pequot Tribe Not Giving Up On Federal Recognition Effort.
- + Native American Tribes Study Climate Change Effects On Food Supply.
- + Martha's Vineyard Casino Plan Divides Tribe.
- + Federal Officials Investigating Marshall's Treatment Of American Indian Remains.
- + Additional Coverage: Tribe Vows To Fight Land Swap To Protect Oak Flat.
- + BIE Encouraging Tribes To Take Control Of Schools.
- + Alaska Gov. Walker Urged To Drop Land-into-trust Suit.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + 2015 Executive Leadership Development Program Participants Graduate.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + Water From San Francisco Bay Making California's Delta Saltier.
- + BOR Awards Contract For Cle Elum Dam Work.
- + BOR Proposes Project To Cut Salinity In Canals.
- + Comments Sought On Bay Delta Conservation Plan.
- + Support Urged For Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + Offshore Wind Farm To Be American First.
- + BLM's Western Solar Plan Speeding Up Permitting.
- + North Carolina's Offshore Wind Potential Touted..

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Interior To Publish Rule To Protect Streams From Coal Mining.
- + Bill Would requires Royalties On All Natural Gas Extracted From Federal Lands.
- + Report Analyzes Abandoned Mine Lands Program.
- + Environmental Violations Prompt Questions About Florida's Regulation Of Oil, Gas Industry.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Damaged Shell Icebreaker Docks In Oregon For Repairs.
- + Tampa Bay Cities Received Less Than What They Sought In Oil Spill Claims.
- + Deep-Sea Mining Appears Imminent As ISA Issues Exploration Contracts.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + County Commissioner Wants Federal Judge Dismissed From Recapture Canyon ATV Case.
- + BLM Monitoring Bonneville Salt Flats.
- + BLM Evaluating Heli-skiing Plan By Silverton Mountain Ski Area.
- + BLM Appoints New Wyoming Resource Advisory Council.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Groups Praise Sportsmen's Bill.
- + Veterans Group Urges Congress To Leave Sage Grouse Provisions Out Of NDAA.
- + FWS Crafting Permitting System For Migratory Birds.
- + Endangered Butterfly On The Road To Recovery.
- + Efforts To Save Monarch Butterfly Ramp Up.
- + FWS Cuts Population Estimate Of Wild Red Wolves.
- + Environmentalists Sue Over Critical Habitat Of Fish In Klamath River Basin.
- + Oregon Finishing Rules On Sage Grouse Habitat.
- + Study Find Pet Owners Underestimate Cats' impact On Wildlife.
- + One Of Oldest African Elephants In North America Euthanized.
- + Editorial: Salt Creek Tiger Beetle Plan Too Expensive.

National Park Service:

- + House Subcommittees Hold Separate Hearings On National Parks.
- + Dole Pushes For Construction Of Eisenhower Memorial.
- + Grants Awarded From Federal Historic Preservation Fund.
- + Grant To Benefit Arts, Culture At Desert View In Grand Canyon National Park.
- + Golden Triangle Business Improvement District Recognized With 2015 Director's Partnership Award.
- + NPS Honors Ukiah Volunteer Historian Phil Valdez Jr.
- + Continuing Coverage: Bison Flips Woman Posing For Selfie At Yellowstone.
- + Oldest Active NPS Ranger Interviewed.
- + Researchers Present Findings At 2015 Everglades Invasive Species Summit.
- + Teachers, Students Spend Summer In Smokies As Park Rangers.
- + Family Of Doctor Who Treated Lincoln Assassin Visit Prison.
- + NPS Plans New Trail Off Chilkoot.
- + Grand Canyon Biologist Hopes To Document Elusive Skunk.
- + Muskrat In Rocky Mountain National Park Tests Positive For Tularemia.
- + Invasive Beetle Spreading In Shenandoah National Park.
- + Search Underway For Missing Yellowstone Worker From China.
- + Man Dies In Boating Accident On Lake Mohave.
- + National Parks Blamed For Driving Away Minorities.
- + Bottled Water Industry Criticized For Opposing Ban On Sales Of Bottled Water In National Parks.

US Geological Survey:

- + Cherokee Nation Technologies Awarded \$45 Million Contract With USGS.
- + USGS Provides New Report On Superstorm Sandy.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + In Kenya, Obama Calls For Reforms, Better Treatment Of Women.
- + Senate Passes Ex-Im Amendment, Rejects ACA Repeal In Highway Bill Action.
- + Clinton Denies Having Sent Or Received Classified Information In Emails.

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:**

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SEEKING TO BAN IVORY SALES. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, 6:36 p.m. EDT, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported that during his visit to Kenya, President Obama "announced new US trade rules prohibiting the trafficking of imported ivory from endangered African elephants." The President is shown saying, "We're proposing a new rule that bans the sale of virtually all ivory across our state lines."

The [New York Times](#) (7/26, Baker, Smith, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that when combined with current laws, the new rules "would amount to a near total ban on the commercial trade of African elephant ivory" in the US. The article notes that "the proposed changes would still allow Americans to sell ivory across state lines, but only if it meets the strict criteria of the antiques exemption listed in the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "certain manufactured items that contain a small amount of ivory — like musical instruments and ivory-handled guns — survived the cut after some lobbying from the affected industries, but the new rule will also ban interstate sales of so-called sport-hunted trophies and ivory that was imported in the United States as part of a household move or inheritance."

The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (7/25, 506) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who serves as co-chair of the President's Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, said, "If our children, and their grandchildren, are to grow up in a world where they appreciate their natural heritage and can see elephants in the wild and not just in the history books, then we owe it to them to shut down avenues that motivate poachers to go after these iconic animals." She continued, "As we work to put the brakes on poaching and prevent elephants from going extinct in the wild, we need to take the lead in a global effort to shut down domestic markets for illegal ivory. Today, we are making it harder for criminals by further shutting the door to the American market."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/26, Strohm, 2.66M) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The United States is among the world's largest consumers of wildlife, both legal and illegal. We want to ensure our nation is not contributing to the scourge of poaching that is decimating elephant populations across Africa."

The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "in Congress, some House lawmakers hope to prevent the proposed rule from being enacted." The National Rifle Association has "warned the rule could ban the sale of many firearms with ivory inlays."

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (7/26, Millet, Subscription Publication, 12.12M), Lydia Millet of the Center for Biological Diversity, writes that in June, her group "filed a petition with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify African elephants as two separate species and protect them both as 'endangered' under the federal Endangered Species Act." According to Millet, "if the United States recognizes and protects the two species, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and CITES, the treaty that regulates global trade in endangered wildlife, may follow suit, bringing new and urgently needed help to the highest-risk elephant populations." She notes that "an endangered listing would also tighten restrictions on the import, export and sale of ivory products to, from and in the United States."

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (7/26, 3.97M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/26, Superville Kevin Freking |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (7/26, 99K), the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (7/26, 78K), [TIME](#) (7/26, 19.82M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/25, 455K), the [Huffington Post](#) (7/26, 164K), the [National Geographic](#) (7/17, 32.56M), the [Daily Express \(UK\)](#) (7/26, 146K), [Mongabay](#) (7/26, 7K), the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (7/27, Eilperin, 493K), [LatinosPost](#) (7/26, 42K), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/25, Gitau, 5.98M), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/25, 5.98M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (7/27, 5.57M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/26, 345K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO PREPARE FOR REYNOLDS CREEK FIRE. [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (7/26, 1K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester is "urging the Obama Administration to prepare firefighting staff and

additional resources to be ready if the Reynolds Creek fire enters the Blackfeet Reservation." In letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Tester "highlighted a contradiction in the Interior Department's firefighting policy, which prioritizes the early attack and prevention of fires, but conflicts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs current firefighting policy at the Blackfeet Reservation." Tester says "the Blackfeet Tribe has reached out to the BIA about firefighting staffing on several occasions this year, but have been unsatisfied with responses they have been given, and to date no additional personnel have been hired." Also providing coverage is [KAJ-TV Kalispell \(MT\)](#) Kalispell, MT (7/26, 909).

Meanwhile, the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/26, 116K) reports that "more wildland firefighters and resources are being poured into combating the Reynolds Creek fire burning in Glacier National Park, and evacuation levels were downgraded this morning." The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/24, 15K) reports that "cooler overnight temperatures provided temporary relief for firefighters squaring off against a wildfire in Glacier National Park, but Friday's forecast of dry, windy conditions indicated another busy day ahead."

The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "a cold front is heading toward the Northern Rocky Mountains this weekend, giving firefighters hope for a break from the hot, dry and windy conditions that have hampered their efforts to contain a wildfire burning through Montana's Glacier National Park."

The [AP](#) (7/25, Volz) reports that "hotels and campgrounds in Glacier National Park are flooded with calls from worried tourists canceling their reservations or asking whether the Montana landmark will stay open as a wildfire sweeps through a popular part of the park." According to the article, "hotel owners are trying to talk callers out of changing their plans, while Glacier officials emphasized that only a small part of the 1,718-square-mile park is closed as the flames chew through parched conifer-topped ridges on its eastern side."

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Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (7/27, Hampson, 4.95M), the [US News & World Report](#) (7/25, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/26, Press, 6.76M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/26), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/26, 5.59M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/25, 455K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/26), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/24, Matt Volz |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (7/23, Volz, 1.1M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (7/24, Forgione, 4.07M), [Reuters](#) (7/25, Dobuzinskis), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/26, 5.59M), [Fox News](#) (7/26, 8.91M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/26, Press, 6.76M).

Cameras Watch For Wildfires. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "for decades, forest rangers in wooden towers across the West scanned the horizon with binoculars for smoke that could signal the start of a wildfire." But "now, scientists in Nevada and California are helping federal land managers develop technology to expand a network of high-definition cameras to do the job, including one in northern Nevada that recently captured a blaze in real-time more than 100 miles away in Oregon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (7/26, 278K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/26, Sonner, 344K), and the [Hanford \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (7/26, 26K).

BLM Creates Portable Water Reservoirs To Help Firefighters. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (7/23, 45K) reports that "historic drought conditions over northeast California and northwest Nevada have increased the need to protect important sagebrush habitats." So the BLM has "positioned portable water reservoirs to help firefighters improve response time to wildfires." The BLM's Northern California District has "placed eight temporary water tanks, each holding 18,000 gallons, in strategic locations on public lands in far northwest Nevada and northeast California, including Modoc County."

New Satellite Data Helps Wildfire Efforts. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (7/25, 506) reports that "new satellite-based technologies developed by NASA have already helped firefighters in South Africa respond to dangerous wildfires, and could help resource managers in the U.S. get a jump on blazes that threaten communities." According to the article, "the new fire detection tool uses data from the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership satellite to detect smaller fires in more detail than previous space-based products." The article notes that "the high-resolution data have been used with a cutting-edge computer model to predict how a fire will change direction based on weather and land conditions."

Analysis: Alaska Wildfire Shows Climate Change Effects. The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that the Alaska wildfire season, which may soon become the state's worst on record, is "the latest indicator of a climatic transformation that is remaking this state." Noting that Alaska has experienced more severe temperature rise than the rest of the country and is losing 75 billion tons of glacial ice each year, the article argues that the wildfire problem poses the largest threat to the state. "The more severe the fire, the deeper that it burns through the organic layer, the higher the chance it will go through this complete conversion," says Ted Schuur, an ecologist at Northern Arizona University.

NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT SURROUNDING BEARS EARS COULD BE CREATED. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/26, 549K) reports that "several top federal officials from Washington quietly attended a 'Gathering of the Tribes' put on last weekend by Native Americans in southeastern Utah, their presence made known only to a chosen few who were 'sworn to secrecy.'" According to the article, "it's the clearest signal yet that the Obama administration may be considering the creation of a huge national monument surrounding a place called the Bears Ears." The article notes that "the proposal is charged with controversy and any move by the Obama administration to unilaterally protect the region would likely set off an explosive political reaction."

Also providing coverage is [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/26, 1.07M).

INTERIOR-EPA SPENDING BILL STALLED ON CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG ISSUE. The [Washington Times](#) (7/27, Shastry, 344K) reports that "two weeks after promising an 'adult' conversation about Confederate flags, House Republicans have made little public headway in solving the thorny political issue." House Speaker John A. Boehner, "who halted action on spending bills and issued the call for talks, brushed aside questions about the issue last week, saying only that conversations are continuing and that Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, California Republican, was his point man on the matter." McCarthy spokesman Matt Sparks said, "He's been talking to members informally. He met with John Lewis a couple of weeks ago. But there's no update. There's nothing to report on the interior bill or the amendments that are still pending."

DEAL TO REAUTHORIZE LWCF RECEIVED MIXED REACTIONS FROM HEADS OF HOUSE COMMITTEE. The [Greenwire](#) (7/24, Subscription Publication) reports that "a deal to reform and reauthorize a 50-year-old land protection program yesterday got mixed reactions from the heads of the House Natural Resources Committee, who would get the first crack at reshaping any compromise the Senate manages to pass." According to the article, "the overhaul was cheered by conservation groups and tucked into the senators' 357-page energy package, which focuses heavily on electric reliability, natural gas exports, renewable energy and research."

NORTH SLOP BOROUGH BOUGHT GIFTS FOR OFFICIALS. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/24, 219K) reports that "Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott will return bearded sealskin vests they were given by an organization affiliated with the North Slope Borough following the disclosure that the borough bought them from a daughter of the mayor." According to the article, "the office of Mayor Charlotte Brower in February paid \$7,000 to Mary Jo Olemaun, one of Brower's daughters, for the pair of vests." The article notes that "documents also showed that the North Slope Borough spent thousands of dollars to buy gifts from Olemaun for high-profile officials, including Walker, Mallott, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski."

[KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (7/26, 128K) reports that Jewell "received an atiqluk made by Olemaun that cost the borough \$500 when she visited Kotzebue in February for an Alaska Federation of Natives meeting."

OVER \$400 MILLION IN PILT FUNDING DISTRIBUTED. The [Southern Illinoisan](#) (7/26, 23K) reports that "in late June, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced \$404.6 million worth of PILT payments to states and counties with various federal lands in their boundaries." The article notes that "for fiscal year 2015, 10 Southern Illinois counties and another in the northeast — reflecting 304,479 acres — received about \$644,000 in PILT payments."

REPORT SAYS FEDERAL AGENCIES SHOULD SHARE DATA TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE. The [National Geographic](#) (7/26, 32.56M) reports that land management agencies "need to constantly collect and assess satellite imagery, monitor sensor data, read and produce regular reports, and track transactions with industry and the general public." However, "with climate change already changing facts on the ground, one former senior government official says the federal government needs to do a better job." David J. Hayes, a former Deputy Secretary of the Interior in the Clinton and Obama Administrations, is "the lead author of an analysis published this month by Stanford Law School that looks at the federal response to climate change and the availability of relevant data." The report "argues, since climate change is being felt on a shared basis, the government's response and the publication of related data should be coordinated as well."

WESTERN STATES DEBATE ON TAKING OVER FEDERAL LANDS. The [Denver Post](#) (7/27, Bunch, 787K) reports that Colorado is among the Western states that are debating the control of public lands. All together, eight states considered 30 bills around the issue this year. Also, in March, Republicans in the U.S. Senate passed, without a single Democratic vote, a symbolic resolution in support of transferring or trading land to states.

BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION CELEBRATED. In an op-ed for the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (7/26, 87K), Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, celebrates the protection of Browns Canyon. According to Williams, "the victory at Browns Canyon came about through the concerted effort of so many Coloradans." Williams concludes that "when diverse groups and interests come together to preserve a legacy for the benefit of all — that alone is a 'monumental' achievement."

Additional coverage of the Browns Canyon National Monument dedication was provided by the [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (7/26, 22K) and the [Denver Post](#) (7/26, Willoughby, 787K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

1988 MODEL INDIAN JUVENILE CODE BEING UPDATED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (7/24, 32K) reports that "for the first time in nearly 30 years, the federal government is updating its 1988 Model Indian Juvenile Code." Department of Interior Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn explained, "Tribes know best what will work in their communities but the model will be updated to provide better federal guidance to tribes in an effort to insure proper respect for the rights and responsibilities of Indian juveniles." The article notes that "the revision promotes mechanisms that will keep children in their communities through, among other strategies, diversion programs that keep kids out of the courts altogether, and to ensure that children and parents have due process rights, including the right to counsel."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN, SPECIAL TRUSTEE MEET WITH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS. The [Native American Times](#) (7/26, 337) reports that "Special Trustee for American Indians, Vince Logan, met with tribal leaders during the Mid-Year conference of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in St Paul, Minnesota, on June 28, 2015." According to the article, "the meeting, which also included Mr. Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, highlighted the progress made by the Special Trustee's office in the two decades since its establishment." The meeting also "looked ahead to find opportunities for the Department of Interior and Tribal governments to work together to preserve the gains made in trust reform, while moving toward modernization and greater self-determination."

LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS FOR PECK RESERVATION RESERVATIONS TO BE RECALCULATED. [KRTV-TV Great Falls, MT](#) (7/26, 2K) reports that "millions of dollars in land buy-back offers will have to be recalculated for residents of the Fort Peck Reservation after initial offers threatened to short-change land owners." According to the Interior Department, "nearly \$128 million in offers were made to about 8,500 land owners in an initial deal." However, "those offers dramatically shorted land owners who own tracts of land that carry a mineral lease."

Additional coverage was provided by [KPAX-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (7/26, 1K) and [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (7/26, 4K).

EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBE NOT GIVING UP ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION EFFORT. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "the newly elected chairwoman of the Eastern Pequot Tribe says they will never abandon their quest to receive federal recognition." The tribe's new leader, Katherine Sebastian Dring, says "the tribe feels confident they can still regain federal recognition."

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (7/25, 77K) reports that Dring said, "For native people, the cause is never-ending. We will never give up."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (7/26, 172K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/26, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (7/26, 75K), and [WTNH-TV Hartford \(CT\)](#) Hartford, CT (7/26, 130K).

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES STUDY CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON FOOD SUPPLY. The [AP](#) (7/27, Plaven, 2.28M) reports that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation has secured a grant from

the Bureau of Indian Affairs to "study climate change in the Pacific Northwest and come up with an action plan to protect the reservation's natural resources, including traditional First Foods." They worry that warmer temperatures are leading to lower flows in river impacting fish stocks and wildfires threatening game. "With climate change, there's limitless ways it can impact folks," notes reservation official Patrick Mills. "But I think we have identified the most important things to this point."

MARTHA'S VINEYARD CASINO PLAN DIVIDES TRIBE. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) reports on the conflict over the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head's (Aquinnah) plan to place electronic gambling machines in a community center at Martha's Vineyard.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING MARSHALL'S TREATMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN REMAINS. The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette](#) (7/27, 53K) reports that "federal officials are investigating whether Marshall University is in compliance with laws concerning the treatment of American Indian remains." The university is under investigation by the Interior Department "to determine whether school officials have properly inventoried American Indian remains and artifacts collected by Marshall over the years, and whether school officials are making adequate efforts to find proper homes for the human remains in the university's possession."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TRIBE VOWS TO FIGHT LAND SWAP TO PROTECT OAK FLAT. Additional coverage of the opposition to turning Oak Flat over to a mining company was provided by the [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (7/26, 18K).

BIE ENCOURAGING TRIBES TO TAKE CONTROL OF SCHOOLS. In a letter to the editor, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/26, 67K), Charles "Monty" Roessel, director of the Bureau of Indian Education, writes in response to the Santa Fe New Mexican article, "Pueblos seek more control of tribal schools," which was published July 10. Roessel clarifies "how the Bureau of Indian Education-funded grant schools receive funding from the Department of the Interior." He also notes that "the department is encouraging tribal nations to assume control over federally operated schools (or the Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools operated by local schools boards) because we believe promoting tribal self-governance and self-determination is the key to transforming our school system."

ALASKA GOV. WALKER URGED TO DROP LAND-INTO-TRUST SUIT. In an op-ed for [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/24, 219K), Liz Medicine Crow, president/CEO of First Alaskans Institute, and Troy A. Eid, a former U.S. Attorney for Colorado under President George W. Bush, criticizes state officials for "holding up the land-into-trust process in Alaska." They write that "rather than allowing for the Interior Department's remedy to stand, the state moved to block the department's new land-into-trust rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals in *Akiachak Native Community, et al v. Department of Interior*." The authors argue that "continuing with this costly and complicated federal appeal can only prolong rural Alaska's public safety crisis at precisely the wrong time, when tribes are finally able to enforce laws against domestic violence in their own territories and trust lands."

Office of Insular Affairs:

2015 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS GRADUATE. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (7/24, 61K) reports that "twenty-two participants representing the U.S. affiliated insular areas graduated from the 2015 Executive Leadership Development Program on June 11 at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii." The article notes that "the ELDP is funded by the U. S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

WATER FROM SAN FRANCISCO BAY MAKING CALIFORNIA'S DELTA SALTIER. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that California officials say "they are struggling to keep portions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta fresh as saltier water from the San Francisco Bay pushes inland during another summer of drought." According to the article, "normally, rivers push back saltier water and keep the delta fresh. But because of the drought, the rivers are low and bay water is invading parts of the estuary." The BOR and the state Department of Water Resources "earlier this year asked regulators to temporarily weaken certain salinity standards in the west Delta to hold back more bay water." but "some environmentalists have challenged the water board's decision to allow those scientifically determined water-quality standards to be weakened." In a complaint filed Wednesday, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance "warned that the looser standards also imperil fish that already are on the verge of extinction, such as the tiny Delta smelt."

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (7/24, 1.85M).

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT FOR CLE ELUM DAM WORK. The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (7/26, 86K) reports that the BOR has “hired a Bellingham-based contractor to build the bridge and access roads necessary for the construction of the new fish passage facility at Cle Elum Dam, officials announced Friday.” Strider Construction Co. “won the \$4.5 million contract and is expected to start work in September.” The article notes that “it’s the first step toward construction of the \$100 million fish passage system planned as part of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to improve water management in the region.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Omak-Okanogan County \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (7/24).

BOR PROPOSES PROJECT TO CUT SALINITY IN CANALS. The [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (7/26, 17K) reports that the BOR “proposes to replace irrigation ditches with lined, underground pipe in northern Montrose County, a project that could remove about 2,000 tons of salt annually from the Colorado River Basin.” The BOR’s Lesley McWhirter said, “This is replacing about 8.5 miles of open irrigation ditches with about 6.4 miles of buried irrigation pipe.”

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (7/26, 14K) reports that the BOR and the California Department of Water Resources “announced a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the newly released environmental impact documents related to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.” Meanwhile, local organizations Restore the Delta and Friends of the River are “encouraging area residents to oppose the BDCP, better known as the Delta twin tunnels, at two open house meetings next week.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR YAKIMA BASIN INTEGRATED PLAN. In an editorial, the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (7/26, 86K) acknowledges that “expanding the Yakima Valley’s water supply will come at a cost; the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan calls for 30 years of a variety of investments at a cost of \$4 billion to \$6 billion.” However, it notes that “backers of the plan correctly point out that not doing something also comes at a cost — one that farmers are already paying in this drought year and one that is likely to ripple through the Valley’s economy in coming months.” For this reason, the paper says “a move by this state’s U.S. senators, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, is most welcome as a way to further the integrated plan.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OFFSHORE WIND FARM TO BE AMERICAN FIRST. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/24, Goossens, 2.66M) reported Friday that the first offshore wind farm in the US is being built off the coast of Rhode Island’s Block Island and will be complete by the end of 2016. Developer Deepwater Wind’s CEO Jeff Grybowski said the project is “very important to jump start the offshore wind industry in the U.S.” The development will have five 6-megawatt turbines. The article notes that offshore wind costs about twice as much to produce than onshore sites due to the difficulty of installing the farms at sea.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (7/26, 305K).

BLM’S WESTERN SOLAR PLAN SPEEDING UP PERMITTING. The [Renewable Energy World](#) (7/26, 2K) reports that “Warren Buffet’s utility NV Energy has signed the lowest price contract for solar ever, at just US \$0.0384 for First Solar’s 100-MW Playa Solar project, beating even its own record low price of \$0.046 cents for SunPower’s 100-MW project in Boulder City, Nevada.” The article notes that “both solar projects benefit from new streamlined permitting set up through the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Western Solar Plan, which designated 19 Solar Energy Zones (SEZ).” BLM Director Neil Komze said, “Projects like these demonstrate that regional planning and mitigation can achieve much faster permitting times and better outcomes.”

NORTH CAROLINA’S OFFSHORE WIND POTENTIAL TOUTED.. In an op-ed for the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (7/26, 354K), Kristine Kaiser writes that “ocean winds are North Carolina’s greatest natural resource and can help fulfill the quest for clean energy.” She notes that “the federal government has identified possible sites off Kitty Hawk, Wilmington and Bald Head Island, but North Carolina’s offshore wind farms are years away.”

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR TO PUBLISH RULE TO PROTECT STREAMS FROM COAL MINING. [The Hill](#) (7/26, Wheeler, 471K) reports that the Interior Department is “considering a rule that aims to protect streams, fish and other wildlife from the adverse impacts of surface coal mining operations and provide mine operators with a regulatory framework to avoid water pollution.” The rule would “require mining permits to specify the point at which the groundwater and surface water will be negatively impacted by coal mining.” It would “set standards to minimize mining through perennial and intermittent streams and force permitted miners to restore both the hydrological form and the ecological function of the mined-through stream segment.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/27, 705) reports that “the Interior Department’s newly proposed rule to protect land and streams from coal mining will appear in Monday’s edition of the Federal Register, launching a 60-day comment period.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (7/26, 1K) and [WTVF-AM Blacksburg \(VA\)](#) Blacksburg, VA (7/26).

BILL WOULD REQUIRE ROYALTIES ON ALL NATURAL GAS EXTRACTED FROM FEDERAL LANDS. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/24, Subscription Publication) reports that “drilling companies would have to pay royalties on all the natural gas they extract from federal lands under a bill introduced this week by a House Democrat.” Illinois Rep. Dan Lipinski’s H.R. 3140, “which seeks to increase revenue to taxpayers and utilize more of the domestic gas from public lands, is backed by environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council.”

REPORT ANALYZES ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM. The [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (7/26, 1K) reports that “the federal Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program has provided billions of dollars for coalfield states trying to recover from centuries of mining, but a recent analysis suggests West Virginia could use a little additional help not only in restoring its natural resources, but also creating new opportunities for diversification and redevelopment.” According to the article, “in creating the report, which was released July 9, co-authors Eric Dixon with Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center and Kendall Bilbrey with the Alliance for Appalachia aimed to analyze the potential the AML fund has to provide economic opportunity in Central Appalachia.”

ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS PROMPT QUESTIONS ABOUT FLORIDA’S REGULATION OF OIL, GAS INDUSTRY. According to data analyzed by the [AP](#) (7/26, Dearen, Kay, 2.28M), Florida issued three environmental violations for oil and gas operations in the state from 2012-14, prompting environmental groups to raise questions about the “regulation of the oil and gas industry” by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. While Kanter Real Estate LLC has “submitted a permit application to drill an exploratory oil well on the eastern edge of the Everglades,” the state “recently issued a wetlands activity permit” to Burnett Oil Co. Inc. for a seismic survey “that would cover 110 square miles within” the Big Cypress National Preserve. Federal approval for the survey, which is “meant to locate new areas for drilling” in the preserve, is pending.

Offshore Energy Development:

DAMAGED SHELL ICEBREAKER DOCKS IN OREGON FOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that “environmental activists in Portland are protesting the arrival of the Fennica, a vessel that Royal Dutch Shell PLC plans to use in its Arctic offshore drilling project after it’s repaired.” According to the article, “the damaged ship, a 380-foot icebreaker, arrived at a Swan Island dry dock about 3 a.m. Saturday.” The article notes that “about 75 ‘kayaktivists’ and other protesters in boats were on the water Saturday afternoon, near where the Fennica is docked, holding a peaceful on-the-water rally against arctic offshore drilling, activist Mia Reback said.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Angelo \(TX\) Standard-Times](#) (7/26, 2K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/25, 219K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (7/26, 1.05M), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (7/26, Press, 626K), [US News & World Report](#) (7/25, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/26, Press, 6.76M), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (7/26, 75K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (7/25, 86K), the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (7/26, 297K), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/26, 5.98M), [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/26, 134K), and [KOIN-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/25, 50K).

Obama Administration Criticized For Allowing Shell To Drill In Arctic. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (7/23, Brune, 164K), Michael Brune, Executive Director, The Sierra Club, argues that “letting Shell into the

Arctic makes no sense" because "it's a case of taking huge risks to get something we don't need." He writes that "not only do we not need that oil and gas – we can't even afford to use it if we want to meet the urgent imperative to limit climate disruption." Brune vows that environmentalists "will not rest until President Obama cancels all drilling and future leases and protects the Arctic Ocean."

Additional Coverage: Shell Receives Permits To Drill In Arctic. Additional coverage that "BSEE conditionally granted Shell permits for exploration in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska" was provided by the [Merco Press](#) (7/24, 1K), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (7/24, Harold, 999K), the [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (7/26, Freking, Joling), and [Marine Link](#) (7/25, 1K).

TAMPA BAY CITIES RECEIVED LESS THAN WHAT THEY SOUGHT IN OIL SPILL CLAIMS. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (7/27, 857K) reports that "disparities among the settlement amounts that Tampa Bay's elected officials have approved in recent days to end their claims against BP and other defendants raise the question: How were they calculated?" According to the article, "details are scarce because the federal judge presiding over the case, Sally Shushan, has issued a gag order over settlement discussions." Also, "government officials and their attorneys discussed the amounts behind closed doors, emerging only to hold a public vote," and "they have declined to comment on details until the order is lifted."

DEEP-SEA MINING APPEARS IMMINENT AS ISA ISSUES EXPLORATION CONTRACTS. The [AP](#) (7/25, Mcfadden) reports that the demand for "rare-earth elements vital in manufacturing" of high-tech products has caused a "rush" to mine deep-sea deposits that were once "out of reach to miners." The AP notes that the United Nation's International Seabed Authority (ISA) has issued 27 deep-sea exploration contracts thus far, and has recently been doing so at a rate that has "alarmed conservationists." According to the article, the rapid rate at which government and private companies are making claims and assessing deposits has forecasters saying mining could begin within five years.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER WANTS FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSED FROM RECAPTURE CANYON ATV CASE. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (7/26, 1.07M) reports that "the legal team for San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman claims a federal judge has a conflict of interest adjudicating the Recapture Canyon ATV ride case and has motioned that he disqualify himself." In a motion filed Monday, Lyman's lawyer "claimed that U.S. District Judge Robert J. Shelby's friendship with a member of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, which lobbied for charges to be filed against Lyman, prevents the judge from being impartial in the case." The motion requests that "Shelby disqualify himself from the case and that the issue be remanded until another judge can be randomly assigned."

BLM MONITORING BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS. The [AP](#) (7/27, Price) reports that "wet weather has forced the cancellation of Speed Week for the second straight year and revived a debate about whether nearby mining is depleting the Bonneville Salt Flats of their precious resource." The BLM, "which oversees the flats, doesn't believe the flats are shrinking but is still requiring the mining company to pump brine onto the flats every winter and launch a detailed study of the salt crust later this year."

BLM EVALUATING HELI-SKIING PLAN BY SILVERTON MOUNTAIN SKI AREA. The [AP](#) (7/26, 787K) reports that "a proposal by the owners of Silverton Mountain to diversify terrain for helicopter skiing on federal land has neighbors debating whether the economic benefits outweigh a possible lack of access." According to the article, "the town of about 630 people is divided over a plan by Silverton Mountain Ski Area owners to modify helicopter skiing access." The BLM is assessing the proposal.

BLM APPOINTS NEW WYOMING RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/26, 115K) reports that the BLM announced a new group of members for the Wyoming Resource Advisory Council. According to the article, "new or reappointed members are Penny Bellah, Casper; Christi Haswell from Sheridan; Brenda Schladweiler from Gillette; and Lyle Konkol from Casper."

Also reporting on the story is the [Sheridan \(WY\) Media](#) (7/26).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GROUPS PRAISE SPORTSMEN'S BILL. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/26, Smith, 564K) reports that "a bipartisan group of U.S. representatives on Thursday introduced a multifaceted bill aimed at protecting fish and wildlife habitat and outdoor opportunities." The Sportsmen's Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Act, or SCORE, "includes seven provisions to reauthorize or implement legislation for programs on public and private lands." The article notes that "the bill (HR 3173) drew immediate praise from many organizations, including American Sportfishing Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Wildlife Refuge Association, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership."

VETERANS GROUP URGES CONGRESS TO LEAVE SAGE GROUSE PROVISIONS OUT OF NDAA. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/24, Subscription Publication) reports that "a pro-conservation veterans group is lobbying lawmakers this week to leave provisions delaying protections for sage grouse out of the National Defense Authorization Act, arguing that safeguards for the bird's Western habitat would also ensure recreational opportunities for veterans on public lands." According to the article, "members of the Vet Voice Foundation, a nonprofit that mobilizes veterans who support clean energy and public land conservation, among other initiatives, met with a handful of conferees who are resolving differences between the House and Senate NDAA bills, said Garrett Reppenhagen, an Army veteran who is the foundation's Rocky Mountain West coordinator."

FWS CRAFTING PERMITTING SYSTEM FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS. The [Ecosystem Marketplace](#) (7/26) reports that the FWS is "in the early stages of crafting a permitting system that has the potential to motivate development industries to implement bird protection measures and reduce bird deaths." The service is "mulling over several program approaches that all have at least one similar component: each follows the mitigation hierarchy."

ENDANGERED BUTTERFLY ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "more than 20 years of habitat restoration and breeding programs have helped the endangered Kamber blue butterfly make a comeback in the pine barrens of upstate New York where it was discovered by Russian author Vladimir Nabokov decades ago." The butterfly is "also making a comeback in parts of Ohio and New Hampshire where it was thought to have been wiped out before 2000." However, "the outlook is less sunny in some other parts of the butterfly's former range from Minnesota to New England."

Additional coverage was provided by the [US News & World Report](#) (7/26, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/26, Mary Esch |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Troy \(NY\) Record](#) (7/26, 20K), the [Niagara \(NY\) Gazette](#) (7/26, 24K), and [Newser](#) (7/26, 218K).

EFFORTS TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLY RAMP UP. [USA Today](#) (7/24, Kilen, 4.95M) reports that the monarch butterfly has "become nature's celebrity and a rallying symbol of agreeable, grass-roots environmentalism after news spread over the past two years of a stark decline in its population — 90% in the last 20 years." The article notes that "the growing number of campaigns to save monarchs range from initiatives launched by President Obama to those by an Eastern Iowa Facebook group, from university research scientists to Iowa farmers."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Keamey \(NE\) Hub](#) (7/26, 39K).

FWS CUTS POPULATION ESTIMATE OF WILD RED WOLVES. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "a revised population estimate puts the world's only wild population of endangered red wolves at their lowest level since the late 1990s amid recent moves to protect the bigger, predatory relatives of dogs from hunters' misdirected bullets." For years, the FWS "estimated that about 100 wolves roamed the land in coastal Dare, Hyde, Washington, Tyrrell and Beaufort counties and also drifted onto neighboring private property." Now, the service has "drastically cut its population estimate to between 50 and 75 wild red wolves."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUE OVER CRITICAL HABITAT OF FISH IN KLAMATH RIVER BASIN. The [Courthouse News](#) (7/24, 7K) reports that "federal grazing permits on 10 tracts of land in the Klamath River Basin threaten critical habitat for two species of endangered fish, environmentalists claim in court." Oregon Wild, Friends of Living Oregon Waters and Western Watersheds Project sued the FWS and the U.S. Forest Service on Wednesday in Federal Court. They assert "the grazing permits in the Clear Lake Reservoir threaten conservation efforts for the Lost River sucker and the shortnose sucker and endangers their critical habitat on federal land."

OREGON FINISHING RULES ON SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (7/27, 94K) reports that

"in an effort to stave off federal intervention that would bring development restrictions to rural Central and Eastern Oregon, state wildlife and conservation officials this month are finishing rules that will govern development in sage grouse habitat." According to the article, "two state agencies were slated to finalize new rules for land that's considered core habitat for the birds whose numbers have declined significantly in the last 50 years throughout the West." The article notes that "both agencies seek to limit impact on the disappearing bird in the hopes of preventing its listing under the federal Endangered Species Act."

STUDY FIND PET OWNERS UNDERESTIMATE CATS' IMPACT ON WILDLIFE. The [New York Times](#) (7/24, Hoffman, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports on the research by Dr. Jennifer L. McDonald, an associate research fellow at the Center for Ecology and Conservation at the University of Exeter in England, on the impact of pet cats on wildlife. According to the article, "pointing to 'a dissociation between actual and perceived predatory behavior,' the researchers concluded that 'the cat owners in this study reject the proposition that cats are a threat to wildlife.'"

ONE OF OLDEST AFRICAN ELEPHANTS IN NORTH AMERICA EUTHANIZED. [E&E Publishing](#) (7/24, 705) reports that "one of the oldest African elephants in North America has been euthanized in California because of chronic degenerative joint and foot disease." According to PAWS President Ed Stewart, "Iringa, 46, was euthanized Wednesday at the sanctuary of the Performing Animal Welfare Society in San Andreas." Iringa was "born in 1969 in Mozambique and was sent to the Toronto Zoo after being captured before age 2."

EDITORIAL: SALT CREEK TIGER BEETLE PLAN TOO EXPENSIVE. The [Lincoln \(NE\) Journal Star](#) (7/26, 231K) editorializes that "champions of the Salt Creek tiger beetle need to find a cheaper way to save the species from extinction." According to the paper, "the \$30 million price tag on the plan drafted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was big enough to give pause to all but the most ardent environmentalists." It concludes that "if the Salt Creek tiger beetle is going to survive, it will have to be on a much tighter budget."

National Park Service:

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEES HOLD SEPARATE HEARINGS ON NATIONAL PARKS. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/24, Subscription Publication) reports that two House subcommittees on Thursday "held separate hearings on the shared goal of laying the groundwork for legislation to expand the appeal of the national park system and reform one of the ways it is funded." House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee Chairman Tom McClintock "laid out in stark figures the scale of the challenge facing the park system, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year." The article notes that "when compared with historic highs, 'in-park concessionaire lodging is down by 722,000 persons annually, or about 17 percent. Tent campers are down by 1.37 million overnights, about 26 percent.'"

DOLE PUSHES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EISENHOWER MEMORIAL. The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, McGlone, 6.76M) reports that former Sen. Bob Dole is working to build support for "the beleaguered National Eisenhower Memorial." Dole's "mission is to get a memorial built for Dwight D. Eisenhower, whom Dole served under in Italy," and who he considers "one of the great Americans." While the memorial was authorized by Congress in 1999, it has "slogged through the federal regulatory process." Architect Frank Gehry's modified design "received final approval from the National Capital Planning Commission," but Eisenhower's family "has never embraced the design," and as a result, "two congressional appropriations committees declined to provide any of the \$68 million that the Eisenhower Memorial Commission sought for construction for 2016." Without the funding in hand "construction can't begin."

GRANTS AWARDED FROM FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND. The [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) (7/26, 46K) reports that "two Western North Carolina projects in Buncombe and Henderson counties were each awarded a grant from the 2015 Federal Historic Preservation Fund." The Asheville-Buncombe Historic Resources Commission was awarded \$19,000, "which will go toward roof repairs at the Smith-McDowell House." Also, The City of Hendersonville was awarded \$2,500, and those funds will be used to hire a consultant to "write a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places for the Berkeley Mills Ballpark." Grants were given to 11 projects across the nation with monies totaling \$95,050.

GRANT TO BENEFIT ARTS, CULTURE AT DESERT VIEW IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (7/26, 3K) reports that "ArtPlace America announced Wednesday the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, on behalf of the tribal heritage project partnership, received a grant of \$500,000 to further arts and culture at Desert View in Grand Canyon National Park." According to the article, "AIANTA, along with Grand Canyon National Park and the park's Intertribal Advisory Council, will specifically

use the grant to preserve murals inside the historic watchtower, continue the 'Cultural Demonstration Series,' and develop intertribal tourism opportunities."

GOLDEN TRIANGLE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT RECOGNIZED WITH 2015 DIRECTOR'S PARTNERSHIP AWARD. The [Yuma \(AZ\) News Now](#) (7/26) reports that "National Mall and Memorial Parks has announced that the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID) is the recipient of a National Park Service 2015 Director's Partnership Award." According to the article, "through their partnership with the National Mall and Memorial Parks, the Golden Triangle BID has invested in the maintenance, beautification, and landscaping of six National Park Service administered parks located within the 43 block neighborhood that comprises the BID." Karen Cucurullo, Acting Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, said, "We are pleased that the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District's outstanding work at the National Mall's uptown parks has been recognized by this award. It is a testament that their vision and collaboration that is making the Golden Triangle a fun and friendly environment for residents, visitors and guests."

NPS HONORS UKIAH VOLUNTEER HISTORIAN PHIL VALDEZ JR. The [Ukiah \(CA\) Daily Journal](#) (7/25, 17K) reports that "Phil Valdez Jr., of Ukiah a long-time volunteer historian for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, received the U.S. Department of Interior Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service at a ceremony earlier this month." NPS Associate Regional Director Stephanie Burkhart and Anza Trail Superintendent Naomi Torres presented him with the award.

CONTINUING COVERAGE: BISON FLIPS WOMAN POSING FOR SELFIE AT YELLOWSTONE. The [New York Times](#) (7/24, Rogers, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that "officials at Yellowstone National Park are warning visitors not to fraternize with wildlife after a woman was injured while trying to take a selfie near a bison — but that hasn't stopped some visitors from posting their close encounters on social media." Colleen M. Rawlings, a district ranger, said, "People need to recognize that Yellowstone wildlife is wild, even though they seem docile. This woman was lucky that her injuries were not more severe."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/26, 455K) and [The Week](#) (7/26, 1.84M).

OLDEST ACTIVE NPS RANGER INTERVIEWED. The [Business Insider](#) (7/27, 2.93M) interviewed Betty Reid Soskin, who at 93, is the oldest active ranger in the NPS and "something of a celebrity." Soskin, "assigned to the Rosie the Riveter-World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, writes frequently on her blog, has a Wikipedia page, and has been interviewed by NPR and People." She "helped shape what the park has become, first as a consultant and later as an interpretive park ranger."

RESEARCHERS PRESENT FINDINGS AT 2015 EVERGLADES INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT. [USA Today](#) (7/25, Gomez, 4.95M) reports that "researchers from various government agencies and universities presented their findings last week" at the 2015 Everglades Invasive Species Summit "on plants and animals that didn't originate in the Everglades but have established themselves there." The article notes that "those invasive species pose a threat not just to the delicate ecology of the 1.5 million acres of Everglades National Park, but increasingly pose a threat to humans as their populations flourish and spread."

TEACHERS, STUDENTS SPEND SUMMER IN SMOKIES AS PARK RANGERS. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (7/26, 235K) reports that "ten high school students and three teachers from Tennessee spent their summer in the Smoky Mountains — working alongside park rangers, conducting field research and gaining valuable experience they can take back to the classroom." According to the article, "the students and teachers, together with a similar group from North Carolina, learned about wildlife biology, botany, fisheries sciences, preventive search and rescue, forest and stream ecology and archaeology."

FAMILY OF DOCTOR WHO TREATED LINCOLN ASSASSIN VISIT PRISON. The [AP](#) (7/24, Press, 6.76M) reports that "about 80 descendants of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd marked Friday's 150th anniversary of Mudd's July 24, 1865, arrival at an isolated Gulf of Mexico fort where he was imprisoned after splinting the broken leg of President Abraham Lincoln's assassin." The group "toured Fort Jefferson, a former Union military prison on an island 68 miles west of Key West in remote Dry Tortugas National Park."

NPS PLANS NEW TRAIL OFF CHILKOOT. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (7/27, 15K) reports that the NPS is "proposing construction of a new hiking trail that branches off the Chilkoot Trail north of Dyea." According to the article, "the 4,000-foot Canyon City loop would be located on the west side of the Taiya River, roughly 8 miles north of Dyea and 4.3 miles south of Sheep Camp, the last stop before serious climbing begins on the famed Klondike Gold Rush trail." The NPS is accepting public comments on the proposal until Aug. 21.

GRAND CANYON BIOLOGIST HOPES TO DOCUMENT ELUSIVE SKUNK. The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/25, 1.12M) reports that "a biologist has installed more than two dozen motion-sensing cameras along a 50-mile stretch of the Grand Canyon in pursuit of images of an elusive skunk species." Grand Canyon National Park has "documented hog-nosed skunk tracks and found signs of them burrowing for insects along the Colorado River, but they're rarely seen and not known to make their home in northern Arizona, especially not on the north side of the river." Park biologist Brandon Holton "spent two weeks in June setting up the cameras in hopes of learning more about how the skunk got to the park and if more exist."

MUSKRAT IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TESTS POSITIVE FOR TULAREMIA. The [Denver Post](#) (7/26, Cotton, 787K) reports that a dead muskrat discovered recently at the Lily Lake area in Rocky Mountain National Park tested positive for tularemia, park officials said Friday.

INVASIVE BEETLE SPREADING IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (7/24, Press, 6.76M) reports that "Shenandoah National Park officials say the destructive emerald ash borer has spread to three new Virginia counties in the park." Park officials announced Thursday that "surveillance traps confirm that the insect is now in Madison, Rappahannock and Rockingham counties."

SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR MISSING YELLOWSTONE WORKER FROM CHINA. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "a search is underway in Yellowstone National Park for a seasonal worker from China who went missing Thursday while swimming." The park says that "21-year-old Feiyang 'Isaac' Xiang of the Hubei province was backpacking with four friends" when "he disappeared while swimming in the Yellowstone River near its confluence with Hellroaring Creek in the park's northern section."

MAN DIES IN BOATING ACCIDENT ON LAKE MOHAVE. The [AP](#) (7/26, 2.28M) reports that "authorities say a man has died after he was accidentally run over by a boat on Lake Mohave." The NPS and Nevada wildlife officials are investigating the incident.

NATIONAL PARKS BLAMED FOR DRIVING AWAY MINORITIES. In an op-ed for [Al Jazeera America](#) (7/26, 109K), Tanya Golash-Boza, an associate professor of sociology at the University of California at Merced, Safiya Noble, an assistant professor in the department of information studies in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies at UCLA, Vilna Bashi Treitler, a professor of sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and Zulema Valdez, an associate professor of sociology at the University of California at Merced, comment on columnist Glenn Nelson's recent op-ed in *The New York Times*, in which he asked, "Why are our parks so white?" Nelson "offers two reasons for this disparity: People of color are less familiar with parks and therefore hesitant to go, and there is a lack of racial diversity among the nation's park employees." However, they argue that "it is not just unfamiliarity with the parks that keeps people of color away. Many prospective visitors worry about disparate treatment by and implicit racial bias of park staffers." They suggest that "in addition to its efforts to attract people of color, the NPS should train its employees to eradicate racial biases and discrimination that are discouraging black people and other minorities from visiting parks."

BOTTLED WATER INDUSTRY CRITICIZED FOR OPPOSING BAN ON SALES OF BOTTLED WATER IN NATIONAL PARKS. In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Martin, 6.76M), Betsy Martin, president of Friends of Little Hunting Creek, writes, "Outrageously, the bottled water industry has successfully lobbied Congress and, through a budget amendment, is forcing the National Park Service to sell water in disposable bottles." She argues that "there are many benefits of not selling water in disposable bottles in national parks, including reducing trash at parks, carbon emissions and the litter that despoils our parks, landscape and waterways." Martin also says that if NPS Director John Jarvis "prevails in his attempt to limit sales of disposable water bottles, people who can't buy a half-liter of water in a disposable bottle for \$1 in a national park can buy a reusable water bottle for \$2 or \$2.50, fill it at the water fountain — making up the cost difference in two fillings — and show concern for our home."

US Geological Survey:

CHEROKEE NATION TECHNOLOGIES AWARDED \$45 MILLION CONTRACT WITH USGS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (7/25, 32K) reports that Cherokee Nation Technologies "recently won a significant services contract with the United States Geological Survey." According to the article, "the amount of the indefinite-delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract totals \$45 million."

Also reporting on the story is the [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (7/26, 602).

USGS PROVIDES NEW REPORT ON SUPERSTORM SANDY. The [ClimateWire](#) (7/24, Subscription Publication) reports that “in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, the second most costly hurricane to thrash the United States since 1900 and the largest Atlantic storm recorded, a preliminary report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration put the total bill at \$50 billion and the minimum death toll at 147.” The article notes that “a new report on the storm tides, flooding and damage in New York from the U.S. Geological Survey provides a more granular look.”

Top National News:

IN KENYA, OBAMA CALLS FOR REFORMS, BETTER TREATMENT OF WOMEN. While network news coverage of the President’s Africa trip was relatively light – with the three networks spending a combined six minutes and 35 seconds on the story – print and online coverage are extensive. Coverage focuses primarily on the President’s remarks to some 4,500 Kenyans in a sports stadium, with most reports casting his comments as an effort to use his personal connection with Kenya to criticize and push for change on issues including the treatment of women and the country’s rampant corruption.

A [Politico](#) (7/26, Dove, 942K) analysis examines the President’s popularity in Kenya, noting that “to many here, he’s ‘our son,’ to the point that there’s a rumor going around among some that Obama will return after he’s done in Washington to run for president here and clean things up in his father’s country.” Politico described him as a “folk hero” in Kenya, where “an industry of children’s books has made ‘Yes We Can’ into a motto of personal empowerment and possibility.”

[USA Today](#) (7/27, Onyulo, 4.95M) reports that a “bumper crop of babies” bearing the President’s name were born during his visit to Kenya. According to Eunice Omolo, maternity ward director at one of Nairobi’s largest hospitals, many families “have been naming boys born during the president’s visit after Obama.” While Omolo “didn’t have a tally of baby names nationwide,” she “tracked 10 Obama infants in her ward since Friday,” and was “positive more little Obamas would be coming.”

Kate Snow reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/26, story 5, 2:25, Snow, 7.86M) that the President arrived in Ethiopia on Sunday after concluding his visit to Kenya, where he “once again spoke of his personal connection to that country.” Chris Jansing added that the President “felt the affection of the nation of his father today,” and “in a speech before a standing-room-only crowd, he described himself as one of theirs.” The President “used that bully pulpit to call for change, an end to treating women and girls as second-class citizens,” and “pushed for an end to rampant corruption.” On [ABC World News](#) (7/26, story 8, 1:45, Llamas, 5.84M), Tom Llamas noted that the President “was honored a native son” in Kenya, and while he “returned the affection,” he “delivered some criticism as well.” Linsey Davis described the President’s speech as “half homecoming, half best practices for progress,” noting that he said Kenya “is at a crossroads of peril and promise” and “in order to make more progress it needs a more transparent democracy, to change the culture of corruption and start empowering women and girls.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Baker, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) describes the President’s message to Kenya as “tough love,” and notes that the speech “was meant to be the centerpiece of his trip.” During the speech, before which he was introduced by his half sister, Auma Obama, the President “sought to use the public interest in him and his visit to prod his family’s ancestral homeland to make needed changes.” [McClatchy](#) (7/27, Clark, 28K) says the President’s speech to some 4,500 “cheering attendees in a sports stadium in Kenya” was “both a pep talk and a challenge for the nation.” Kenya, the President said, “is witnessing political stability and a booming economy,” but he “also relied on his favored son status to bluntly point out where he believes Kenya falls short with ‘problems that shadow ordinary Kenyans every day.’” David Axelrod noted on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/26, story 3, 2:25, Axelrod, 5.08M) that the President “spoke out against restrictive laws governing homosexuality and took on the illegal ivory trade.” Major Garrett added that the President “told Kenya, where 60 percent of the population is 25 or younger, his past need not be their future.”

[Reuters](#) (7/27, Mason, Honan) notes that the President discussed his personal experience as he talked about Kenya’s progress in the five decades since it achieved independence, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Parsons, 4.07M), likewise, says the President “reached deep into his personal history to urge this East African nation to reject the ‘dark corners’ of its past and chart a ‘path to progress’ befitting the 21st century.” The President, the Times adds, “stepped fully into his unique role and spoke frankly to Kenyans as only a member of the family can,” telling them that “tribalism, corruption, oppression of women and genital mutilation of girls all serve” as “an ‘anchor that holds you down.’”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/27, Lee, Vogt, Subscription Publication, 6.06M), likewise, says the President used his personal story as well as his ties to Kenya to inspire the country, which he said is "at a crossroads." In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/27, Santora, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) said that while Kenyans referred to the President "as 'our son,'" what they "heard Sunday was more like a lecture from a stern but loving father," and "they could not have been happier." Kenyans, the Times notes, "said his message would be absorbed and, they hoped, bring change," adding that "people watching the speech said they believed Mr. Obama's return would help their country."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/27, Howell, 344K) says the President "frequently cited America's past to make a point about progress during his address, a way of persuading Kenyans on issues of social consequence without singling them out." The Times particularly focuses on the President's discussion of the fair treatment of women, noting that he told Kenyans that the "equal treatment of women is a key recipe for success, saying so-called traditions of forced marriage, domestic assault and genital mutilation are 'holding you back' and that failure to educate and employ women will doom their economy." Similarly, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Dixon, 4.07M) focuses on the President's comments on Kenya's treatment of women, noting that he "warned...that countries that locked women out of schooling, opportunities and jobs would see their economies shrivel and lag behind other nations."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Sieff, 6.76M) reports that the President "laid out a detailed case about what he thinks needs to change for Kenya to become one of the globe's emerging powers," adding that "the heart of the speech was more lecture than reminiscence, as he used his standing as a beloved son of Kenya to critique a country still fraught with tribalism, sexism and corruption." The AP (7/27, Superville) reports that as the President closed out the "historic visit," he "said Kenya has come so far in just his lifetime, but can go even further."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/26, Zirulnick, 455K) noted that the Administration has faced criticism from "civil society, scholars and international anti-corruption activists" for a "hands-off approach to Kenya's issues of corruption and governance," adding that the President "has been under pressure to address the issue as strongly as he did when he visited Kenya as a junior senator in 2006." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/27, Lee, Vogt, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) analysis says that while the President sought to use his personal story to push for change in Africa, the fact that the trip came so near to the end of his Administration calls into question his legacy in Africa and makes it likely that his policy prescriptions for the continent will not advance until after he leaves office.

Kenyan Lawmaker Calls For Terror Suspect's Release From Gitmo. [USA Today](#) (7/27, Onyulo, 4.95M) reports that Kenyan lawmaker Sen. Hassan Omar wants the President to release "alleged al-Qaeda-linked terrorist Abdul Malik" from the US prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Malik was arrested in Mombasa in 2007 "on allegations of plotting to attack American installations near the city." While he "was never charged with a crime," Kenya "remanded him to the US," and he is now in "indefinite detention." Omar said Sunday, "We need Obama to order the release of this terror suspect if he claims to be a friend to Kenyans."

Obama Jokes About Birth Certificate In Nairobi. [Reuters](#) (7/27) reports that during a state dinner in Nairobi on Saturday, the President joked about his birth certificate, saying, "I suspect that some of my critics back home are suggesting that I'm back here to look for my birth certificate. That is not the case." The joke was met with laughter and applause, Reuters notes.

Obama, African Leaders To Discuss "Plan B" For South Sudan. [Reuters](#) (7/27, Mason) cites a US official who said the President, during a meeting with African leaders on Monday, will discuss a "Plan B" for South Sudan that may include sanctions and other penalties if a peace deal is not reached by mid-August. The [Washington Times](#) (7/27, Howell, 344K) says Administration officials do not "expect a breakthrough" during the meeting, which will include "leaders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, the chairwoman of the African Union and the foreign minister of Sudan," and instead are "likely to resort to increasing sanctions or imposing an arms embargo in South Sudan ahead of an Aug. 17 deadline for a deal, saying warring rivals there have been 'unrelenting' in their 'recalcitrance' to make peace."

Obama's Ethiopia Visit Expected To Focus on Terrorism, Human Rights. With his arrival in Ethiopia on Sunday, President Obama became the first sitting US president to visit the country, [USA Today](#) (7/27, Onyulo, 4.95M) reports, adding that the visit "highlight[s] the East African country's increasingly crucial value in combating Islamic extremism despite a poor human rights record." While Ethiopian leaders "are eager to hear about Obama's plans for trade," discussions "that begin Monday are likely to focus heavily on terror threats facing Africa." While USA Today also noted that "experts don't foresee Obama discussing human rights

extensively on his visit," Davis noted on [ABC World News](#) (7/26, story 8, 1:45, Llamas, 5.84M) that in Ethiopia, "human rights is expected to be a major talking point."

However, the [New York Times](#) (7/27, Fortin, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that "opposition parties do not expect Mr. Obama's visit to result in political change in Ethiopia, said Woretaw Wassie, head of finance for the Semayawi Party." The Times adds that while "human rights activists would like to see greater pressure from the United States, which provides hundreds of millions of dollars in annual aid to Ethiopia, many Ethiopians bristle at the notion of the United States interfering in the affairs of their country."

Lawsuit Challenges Ethiopia's Hacking Of American's Computer. The AP (7/27, Gillum) says a "unique lawsuit" in the US "is challenging whether [Ethiopia] can spy on an American by turning his computer into a giant recording device." In the federal case, it is alleged that agents for Ethiopia's government "gobbled up months of a Maryland man's Skype calls and his family's Internet activities." The man, an Ethiopia-born US citizen, "helps out a political opposition group outlawed in his home country."

SENATE PASSES EX-IM AMENDMENT, REJECTS ACA REPEAL IN HIGHWAY BILL ACTION. The Senate on Sunday held several controversial votes on unrelated amendments to the transportation legislation, dealing defeats to a group of conservatives. Beyond that, the media picked up on the growing discord between the Senate GOP leadership and some members, particularly Sen. Ted Cruz, who is running for president.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Mascaro, 4.07M) reports that a "standoff" has developed over the path forward on highway funding between the House and Senate. In a "rare and heated" Sunday session, the Senate voted on several unrelated amendments to its highway bill – one to repeal the ACA, which was rejected, and another to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which "advanced toward approval."

[Roll Call](#) (7/26, Lesniewski, 113K) reports that a "bipartisan coalition" defeated a filibuster of the Ex-Im Bank amendment on a 67-26 vote. The Senate's Sunday work set the stage for the Senate "to send a long-term highway bill tied to the Ex-Im Bank to the House later this week, but not before facing other gambits by conservatives." [The Hill](#) (7/26, Cirilli, 471K) reports that the Ex-Im re-authorization "split Senate Republicans." While no Democrats voted against it, all 26 of the no votes came from Republicans.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/27, Howell, 344K) reports that the Ex-Im vote caused a rift between the Senate GOP leadership and some conservatives, particularly Cruz, who accused them of cutting a deal to save the bank. [Roll Call](#) (7/26, Dennis, Lesniewski, 113K) reports that that the Senate opened on Sunday with "a reading by the Senate President Pro Tempore Orrin G. Hatch of the Senate's rules of decorum, in an apparent rebuke" of Cruz for calling Majority Leader McConnell "a liar on Friday. And things got more personal from there." Later in the morning, McConnell "defended his actions setting up a vote to revive the Export-Import Bank, even though he opposes it."

[Politico](#) (7/26, Everett, Raju, 942K) reports that Cruz also "tried unsuccessfully to force the Senate to consider an amendment to a transportation bill stating that sanctions on Iran could not be lifted until the country recognizes Israel's right to exist and frees four American hostages," but he couldn't "rally enough senators to back his effort to get a roll call vote on the matter." Then, Sen. Mike Lee "tried to push through a vote on defunding Planned Parenthood," which also failed.

The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that a "clear majority in the House supports resurrecting" the Ex-Im Bank, "but it will be up to House leaders to decide whether the chamber will get a vote, or whether to allow the bank's powerful opponents — led by the House majority leader, the majority whip, the Ways and Means Committee chairman and the Financial Services Committee chairman — to stand in the way." The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Kane, Snell, 6.76M) reports that the battle of the Ex-Im Bank "has taken on a life of its own in some corners of the conservative movement, particularly among tea party activists who are trying to move Republicans away from their traditional support for corporate America."

[USA Today](#) (7/27, Kelly, O'Donnell, 4.95M) reports that the highway trust fund "reimburses states for the cost of major road, bridge and mass-transit projects, which could come to an abrupt halt if Congress doesn't act by the July 31 deadline." The Senate "adjourned until Monday following the two votes." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (7/26, House, 2.66M) reports that if the Senate does pass its transportation bill, the House version is "significantly different," meaning that either the House would have to adopt the Senate bill wholesale, or sort the situation out in a conference committee.

CLINTON DENIES HAVING SENT OR RECEIVED CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN EMAILS. The AP

(7/27, Lucey) reports that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking in Madison County, Iowa on Saturday, said she "never sent or received any information that was classified at the time it was sent and received." The statement was in response to a memo from intelligence inspector general, I. Charles McCullough, stating that "potentially hundreds of classified emails" were among those sent or received by Clinton on her personal email account. That was based on a review of a "limited sample of 40 emails."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/27, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) reports that Clinton suggested that the emails may have contained material that was classified afterwards, but a spokeswoman for the inspector general denied that, saying that the material was classified when it was sent and remains so. Clinton also suggested that there was a dispute among agencies about whether to classify them. Clinton also sought to downplay the findings, saying that there were four emails of thousands that were in dispute, though the review only covered 40 emails.

The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Haberman, Parker, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) in its coverage focused on the reaction of Republican presidential candidates, stating that "some of them lost no time" in criticizing Clinton, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Rand Paul, former HP CEO Carly Fiorina, and Donald Trump, while others "were more restrained," including Sen. Marco Rubio, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. Trump "had the sharpest words" saying that Clinton's actions were "criminal," and adding, "I don't see how she can run." Huckabee's remarks were "arguably the harshest," accusing her of "conveniently ignoring basic State Department security policies."

Sen. Paul said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/26, Wallace), "I think it's pretty damning that President Obama's Justice Department has even brought this up," explaining that material is classified to protect people, and commenting, "I don't understand how she can skate by and act as if she wasn't aware of the law." Paul added on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (7/26, Dickerson, 2.64M), "I think this is a real problem for Hillary Clinton and this isn't going away."

Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/26, Wallace), "Of course she's engaged in a cover-up and of course she's broken the rules."

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (7/26, Tapper, 420K), "What she has done is criminal. I don't see how she can run."

NBC Poll: Emails May Be Hurting Clinton. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/26, lead story, 3:25, Snow, 7.86M) reports that a new NBC/Marist poll shows that "the email flop could be taking a toll" as 20 percent of Democrats polled in Iowa have an unfavorable view of Clinton, and 23 percent of New Hampshire Democrats have an unfavorable view of her. Nevertheless, she "continues to lead big in Iowa," while her lead over Sen. Bernie Sanders "is smaller" in New Hampshire than the 56 points she had "just five months ago."

Clinton Announces Renewable Energy Goals. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/27, Halper, Mehta, 4.07M) reports that Clinton on Sunday "sought to position herself as a crusader against climate change," issuing "robust goals," while attempting "to avoid some of the more contentious battles." The goals include promoting 700 percent growth in solar energy and providing sufficient energy from renewable sources to "fuel all homes and businesses by 2027." But, the Times notes, Clinton has not declared her position on the Keystone XL pipeline, hydraulic fracturing, or offshore oil drilling, and her proposals are "vague on details." Campaigning in Iowa, Clinton declared her support for continued wind power subsidies; Iowa is "a leader in wind production."

[Politico](#) (7/26, Gold, Goode, 942K), on the other hand, says that Clinton's proposals were the "most detailed" and "most specific" she has made so far, and in response, she "won praise" from billionaire and environmental activist Tom Steyer who has been calling for "a completely clean energy economy." Steyer said that Clinton had "emerged as a strong leader" with her proposals.

WPost Analysis: Clinton Battles "Enthusiasm Gap." The [Washington Post](#) (7/27, Williams, 6.76M) reports that Clinton has been "confronting an enthusiasm gap" in Iowa, by presenting herself as "a reliable warrior" for Democratic causes. She spoke about the minimum wage, overtime pay, "paid family and sick leave," and, "equal pay for equal work." She also praised "wind energy," and promised "a plan to provide relief for student loan debt." In addition, "Clinton tied herself more closely to President Obama."

WSJournal: Clinton's Capital Gains Tax Proposal Would Slow Economy. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/27, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) in an editorial criticizes Clinton's proposal for a top capital gains tax rate of 43.4 percent, up from 23.8 percent. The Journal notes that the new rate would be higher than it has been for at least 60 years, and argues that the proposal would result in slower economic growth and lower income.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Union Pay Exemption Up For Debate](#)
[Gang Attacks Spark Jitters](#)
[A Big Task In A Small Town](#)
[Changing Tastes](#)
[Meet The New And Old Hillary](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Iran's Past Nuclear Work Clouds Deal](#)
[Record Fine For Fiat Chrysler](#)
[Malaysia's Palm-Oil Workers Tell Of Abuses](#)
[Putting A Price On A Human Egg](#)

New York Times:

[Texas County's Racial Past Is Seen As Prelude To Sandra Bland's Death](#)
[Raising Floor For Minimum Wage Pushes Economy Into The Unknown](#)
[Aging Infrastructure Plagues Nation's Busiest Rail Corridor](#)
[Republicans Alter Script On Abortion, Seeking To Shift Debate](#)

Washington Post:

[The Arab Spring's Lost Promise](#)
[Turkey, US Plan Safe Zone In Syria](#)
[Exodus From Puerto Rico Could Sway Election](#)
[Alaska's Scorched Summer](#)
[Louisiana City Strains To Make Sense Of Tragedy](#)

Washington Times:

[Senate GOP Loses Ex-Im, Obamacare Votes Along With Civility](#)
[Generals Say US Exit Let Islamic State Enter Iraq](#)
[Obama Loses Last Legal Buffer Against Surge Of Immigrants](#)
[Republicans Pounce On Clinton Email Revelations](#)
[Obama: Gun Control Biggest Frustration Of His Presidency](#)
[Pakistan Eagerly Waits For Trade With Iran, Gas Pipeline Project](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Florida-Fishing Trip Disappearance; Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting; California Wildfires; Las Vegas-Hotel Fire; Baltimore-Boating Deaths; Department Of Transportation-Safety Fines; Donald Trump-Political Campaign; President Obama-Africa Trip.

CBS: Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting; California Wildfires; President Obama-Africa Trip; Turkey-ISIL Offensive; Florida-Fishing Trip Disappearance; Anthem-Cigna Purchase; Boy Scouts-Same Sex Ban Lifted; West Virginia-House Invasion Murder; Department Of Transportation-Safety Fines; Tokyo-Plane Crash.

NBC: Republican 2016 Presidential Candidates; Florida-Fishing Trip Disappearance; Louisiana-Movie Theater Shooting; Turkey-ISIL Offensive; President Obama-Africa Trip; Colorado-Teen Pregnancy Reduction.

Network TV At A Glance:

Louisiana Movie Theater Shooting – 8 minutes, 05 seconds
President Obama-Africa Trip – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Florida Fishing Trip Disappearance – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Whitney Houston Daughter-Death; Florida-Fishing Trip Disappearance; US Senate-Highway Bill Funding; Gas Prices Decrease.

CBS: Whitney Houston Daughter-Death; Afghanistan-Wedding Gun Fight; DOT-Fiat Chrysler Fine; Florida-Fishing Trip Disappearance; Florida-Fishing Trip Disappearance; A&M University Gathering-Texas Inmate Suicide; California Wildfires-Firefighter Injuries; Baseball Hall Of Fame Inductions.

NPR: Turkey-Iraq Air Strikes; Export-Import Bank Reauthorization-US Senate Vote; A&M University Gathering-Texas Inmate Suicide; DOT-Fiat Chrysler Fine; Tour De France-Winner; Whitney Houston Daughter-Death.
FOX: President Obama-Africa Trip; Louisiana Movie Theater Shooting; Whitney Houston Daughter-Death; DOT-Fiat Chrysler Fine.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Participates in a welcoming ceremony; holds a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia; meets with President Mulatu Teshome of Ethiopia; joins Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn; holds a multilateral meeting on South Sudan and counterterrorism issues with Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, the African Union, and Uganda; attends a State Dinner with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Delivers remarks on the economy at SUNY Polytechnic Canal Ponds; delivers remarks at an infrastructure event with Governor Andrew Cuomo.

US Senate: 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. **SCIENCE RESEARCH – GINGRICH, WARREN, CUMMINGS** — Former Speaker Newt Gingrich to Join Warren and Cummings at Forum on Critical Federal Investments in Science Research. The panelists will speak about the importance of strengthening federal investments in scientific research to “grow our economy and create jobs”. Panel I: Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Panel II: Carol Espy-Wilson, Ph.D., Founder and CEO of OmniSpeech, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Maryland; Aaron Kesselheim, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Director, Program On Regulation, Therapeutics, And Law, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School Mariana Mazzucato, Ph.D.; RM Phillips Chair in Economics of Innovation, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex. Location: 216 Hart.

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **BPC – SAFE AND EFFECTIVE** — The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) will release recommendations on ways to accelerate the development and delivery of safe and effective medical products to patients. Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) (invited) will headline this event on medical innovation. Following their keynote speeches, former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, MD, co-chair of BPC's FDA: Advancing Medical Innovation with former Congressman Bart Gordon, will join members of the initiative's Advisory Committee for a panel discussion on their new recommendations. Location: 902 Hart.

US House: 11 a.m. **HOYER – ADA PRESS CONFERENCE** — Press conference marking the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) will join Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), former Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Bob Dole (R-KA), former Rep. Steve Bartlett (R-TX), and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Commissioner Chai Feldblum. Each played a role in enacting the legislation. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Commissioner Chai Feldblum also participates. Location: United States Capitol, HVC-215.

12 p.m. — The House meets for morning hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

5 p.m. **RULES** — Full committee on H.R. 427 – Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015. <https://rules.house.gov/news/announcement/meeting-announcement-hr-427> Location: H-313 Capitol.

Other: July 26 – 31. **CATO UNIVERSITY 2015** — Summer Seminar on Political Economy bringing together outstanding faculty and participants from across the country and, often, from around the globe. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) will be delivering the dinner address on Wednesday, July 29 on Capitol Hill. Location: The Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

July 27 – 28. **2015 HEALTHY AGING SUMMIT** — U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2015 Healthy Aging Summit. www.2015healthyagingsummit.org Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW,.

July 27 – 30. **3RD ANNUAL VET COURT CON** — Annual conference dedicated to Veterans Treatment Courts and justice-involved veterans with keynote by VA Secretary Robert McDonald during the opening ceremony 8a-10a.m. Location: Gaylord National Hotel & Conference Center, Potomac Room, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD.

USDOT – FIAT CHRYSLER — 11:45 a.m. Media conference call to provide additional information after Fiat Chrysler Automobiles acknowledged violations of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act's requirements to repair vehicles with safety defects and will submit to rigorous federal oversight, buy back some defective vehicles from owners, and agreed to a \$105 million civil penalty, the largest ever imposed by the Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx; NHTSA Administrator Dr. Mark Rosekind.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "In fact, now [Donald] Trump is threatening to start campaigning as a third party candidate if the Republican party doesn't become more supportive. Of course a lot of Republicans say you need to 'give respect' to 'get respect,' to which Trump says, 'Whatever, losers.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "When Trump was asked why he gave out Lindsey Graham's personal phone number this week. He said, and this is real, he said he did it for fun and everybody had a good time. Yeah, 'good times,' said the teenager who spent all day today trying to show Lindsey Graham how to transfer his contacts."

Jimmy Fallon: "One GOP Congressman named Carlos Curbelo actually suggested that Donald Trump may be a 'phantom candidate' that is implanted by the Democrats'. The DNC strongly denied this while Hillary said, 'Crap, they figured it out. Take off the wig, Bill.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Hillary, a new poll also shows that a majority of people in Colorado think Hillary Clinton is not trustworthy. Although that's not saying much coming from the most paranoid state in America."

Jimmy Fallon: "The other big contender for the democratic nomination is Bernie Sanders, who a lot of people are just getting to know. And in an interview this week, Bernie said that his greatest weakness is he's not as sociable as he could be. When asked why, he picked up a banana and pretended he was taking a phone call."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 21, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell, Deputy Secretary Connor To Visit Hamey County.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Dedicates Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Visits Santa Cruz Island.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage: Federal Government Cancels Disputed Drilling Lease On Sacred Site.](#)
- + [Tribal Officials Recognize Renaming Of Mt McKinley To Denali.](#)
- + [Rep. Clawson Seeks \\$500 Million To Buy Land In Everglades.](#)
- + [New Mexico Still Eyeing Lawsuit Against EPA Over Gold King Mine Spill.](#)
- + [Alaska Loses Bid For Easements Along Historic Trails.](#)
- + [Federal And State Funding Announced For Sage Grouse Conservation Projects.](#)
- + [Sen. Murkowski Looks To Address Puerto Rico's Energy Problems.](#)
- + [Rep. Jones Moves To Block Porn On Federal Computers.](#)
- + [Republican Presidential Candidates Call For Breakup Of Federal Land.](#)
- + [Studies Find Pay Drops In Fields Where Females Enter.](#)
- + [AP Analysis: Administration Sets Record For Failures To Find Files.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Attends Palmer Bayou Boardwalk Dedication.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Louisiana Black Bear Delisted.](#)
- + [Interior Urged To End Coal's Self-bonding "Scam".](#)
- + [Utah Attorney General Urged To Look At Lawsuit Over Federal Lands Rationally.](#)
- + [Op-Ed: Emery County Residents Oppose Public Lands Initiative.](#)
- + [Drabelle Reviews "Rightful Heritage" By Douglas Brinkley.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Native American Tribes Have Gained Almost 400,000 Acres Under Obama Administration.](#)
- + [Bill Tackles Dam Maintenance Backlog In Native American Communities.](#)
- + [Sen. McCain Pushes For Native American Education Opportunity Act.](#)
- + [Court To Hear Arguments Over Cowlitz Tribe's Casino.](#)
- + [BIA Seeks To Prevent Overdoses With Naloxene.](#)
- + [Quinault President Testifies Before Congress.](#)
- + [Pii Paash Uumish Hosts "Waters Connect Us" Activist Event.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Buy-back Offers Sent To Owners Of Fond Du Lac Land.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Interior Approves \\$1.8M In Grant Assistance For American Samoa.](#)
- + [Construction Begins For Rota Mayor's Office Parking Lot Paving Project.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [BOR, EPA, Partner With Western Water Districts On Innovative Conservation Program.](#)
- + [BOR Catches Rare, White Sturgeon At Klamath Falls Reservoir.](#)
- + [Judge To Hear Case About Water Management In Upper Deschutes.](#)

- + Utah Urges Local Ownership Of Some Federal Water Projects.
- + BOR Names New Deputy Director For Lower Colorado Region.
- + Continuing Coverage Of California Drought.
- + Additional Coverage: Republican River Basin Study Released.
- + Delta Tunnels Questioned.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + Stockton University To Host Forum On Offshore Wind Energy.
- + Additional Coverage: US Opens Up New York Coast For Wind Development.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Conservationists Challenge BLM Over Fossil Fuel Plans.
- + Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Opposes Dakota Access Pipeline.
- + Banks Cutting Financing To Coal Industry.
- + Oil Drilling To Begin In "Vast, Unspoiled Sweep" Of Nevada.
- + Oregon First State To Ban Coal In Power Sector.
- + NYTimes Analysis: Local Protests Against Fossil Fuels Seek Global Results.
- + Additional Coverage: Group Says Coal Companies Rely Heavily On Public Lands.
- + Support Urged For RECLAIM Act.
- + Obama Administration's Coal Regulations Criticized.
- + Former BLM State Directors: BLM Must Assess Environmental Impact Of Coal.
- + Editorial: Coal A Part Of All-of-the-above Energy Policy.
- + Champion Praises Administration's "Bold Action" On Natural Resource Policy.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + NASA To Advise BSEE On Offshore Drilling Risk Reduction.
- + Rep. Hudson Introduces Bill Allowing Leasing Off NC Coast.
- + Alabama Begins Work On Hotel Using BP Money From Separate Fund.
- + Additional Coverage Of Offshore Drilling Plan.
- + Additional Coverage: BOEM Developing New Offshore Drilling Air Standards.
- + Additional Coverage: Nobel Laureates Urge Arctic Council To Cease Drilling.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM Director Kornze Highlights Progress In Clean Up Of National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
- + BLM Seeks Nominations For Advisory Councils.
- + "Mr. Sagebrush Rebellion" Bankrolls Push To Seize Federal Land.
- + BLM Ranger Jailed Under Questionable Pretenses.
- + Dorena Genetic Resource Center Trying To Fight Pathogens That Kills Some Pines And Cedars.
- + BLM Sets Dates For Wild Horse And Burro Adoptions.
- + Additional Coverage: Rep. Chaffetz Seeks More Information On BLM, Forest Service Bonuses.
- + Additional Coverage: BLM Seeks To Rehabilitate Land After Soda Fire.
- + Additional Coverage: Bundy's Cattle Poses Problem.
- + Minnesotans Discuss Regulatory Process For Twin Metals Copper-Nickel Mine.
- + Public Land Grazing Saves Federal Government \$750 Million Per Year.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS Hands Out Boating Grants.
- + House Panel Blasts FWS' Refusal To Use Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System.
- + FWS Petitioned To Protect Black Bears As Endangered Species.
- + Restoration On Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge To Begin.
- + Work On West Fork River Dam Removal Project To Begin Monday.
- + Road Improvements Set To Start In Prime Hook Wildlife Refuge.
- + Southwestern Willow Flycatcher May Lose Its Endangered Classification.
- + Aerial Gunning Reduces Wyoming Wolf Pack That Killed Cattle.
- + Four Bald Eagles Die In Delaware.
- + Narwhal Ivory Smuggler Extradited To US For Money Laundering Trial.
- + Additional Coverage: Military Postpones Tortoise Relocation Plan.

- + [Additional Coverage Of Effort To Raise Whooping Cranes.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Albatross Gives Birth At 65.](#)
- + [FWS Law Enforcement Officer Recognized.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Bing Partners With NPS For #FindYourPark Photo Contest.](#)
- + [Yosemite Fight Over Names Escalates as NPS Pushes to Cancel Trademarks.](#)
- + [Interior Supports Bill To Include Sewall-Belmont House In National Park System.](#)
- + [Cherry Blossoms Close To Peak Bloom.](#)
- + [Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dismantles River District Office.](#)
- + [Fired Park Police Chief Returning To Former Position.](#)
- + [Contract Awarded For Carlsbad Caverns Elevator Repairs.](#)
- + [Great Smoky Mountains National Park Receives Public Lands Partner Award.](#)
- + [Biologists Discover New Mule Deer Migration Route.](#)
- + [Grand Teton National Park Seeks Volunteers For Summer Repair Work.](#)
- + [Henrico County Subdivision Located On Confederate Forts.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Battle Over Grazing At Point Reyes National Seashore.](#)
- + [Friendship Urn Recalls Good Relations Between US And Cuba.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [Seismologist Lucy Jones Retiring From USGS.](#)
- + [Study: 70% Of Coastal Northeast Could Adapt To Rising Seas.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Human Rights Protesters Arrested Ahead Of Obama's Arrival In Cuba.](#)
- + [McConnell Rules Out Lame-Duck Session To Confirm Garland.](#)
- + [Belgian Officials: Arrested Paris Militant Abdeslam Was Planning More Attacks.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL, DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TO VISIT HARNEY COUNTY. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/20, 32K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor will "travel to Harney County on Monday to meet with employees affected by the 41-day Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation, as well as community and tribal leaders, the agency announced Sunday." The announcement said Jewell will meet "with community and tribal leaders who are working collaboratively on thoughtful management of public and private lands in southeastern Oregon." Jewell said, "As the community continues to recover from the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, I know that deepening the strong partnerships already in place will be important to the healing process."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (3/21, 122K).

Lawmakers Seek Federal Funding To Reimburse Local Expenses For Malheur Occupation. The [E&E](#) (3/18) reports that "members of Oregon's congressional delegation are working to find federal dollars to help pay back local governments that responded to armed militants' takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge earlier this year." According to the article, "a top priority for Sen. Ron Wyden is getting 'compensation for the community, which basically blew through its budget as a result of this.'" Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley are "also

seeking to tap the existing budgets of other law enforcement agencies or provide new dollars for state and local agencies via the fiscal 2017 appropriations process.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the occupation was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (3/20, 864K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, 285K), [Reuters](#) (3/18, Johnson), the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/18, 975K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/20, 2K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DEDICATES BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “joined federal and state officials near the town of Williams on Saturday to mark the creation of the Beryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.”

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (3/20, 165K) reports that Jewell was joined by Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Reps. Mike Thompson and John Garamendi. Thompson said, “After years of tireless work by countless numbers of people, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region finally has the permanent protection it deserves. It was an honor to join those who have been incredible partners and supporters in this effort at today’s dedication ceremony.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/19, 285K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 569K), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/20, 591K), the [Lake County \(CA\) News](#) (3/20, 530), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (3/20, 6K), [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (3/20, 6K), and [KRON-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (3/20, 124K).

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (3/20, 148K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited Santa Cruz Island last Friday. She was joined by Rep. Lois Capps and “dozens of Santa Paula fourth-graders.” According to the article, “the students’ trip was part of the Every Kid in a Park initiative launched last year by President Barack Obama to get children nationwide outdoors.” Jewell and Capps “handed out national park passes to fourth-graders from Thille School in Santa Paula.”

[KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (3/20, 1K) reports that “students were taken to the Channel Islands specifically to see the Channel Island Fox.” According to the article, “the animal has been brought back from the brink of extinction through conservation work.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (3/21, 1K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANCELS DISPUTED DRILLING LEASE ON SACRED SITE. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that last week, the Obama Administration canceled Solenex LLC’s undeveloped lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Lewis and Clark National Forest. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said “it was issued without proper environmental or cultural review.”

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, 48K) reports that Jewell said, “Today’s action honors Badger-Two Medicine’s rich cultural and natural resources and recognizes the irreparable impacts that oil and gas development would have on them.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (3/18, 308K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 388K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (3/20, 44K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication), and [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (3/20, 46K).

TRIBAL OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE RENAMING OF MT MCKINLEY TO DENALI. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/18, 2K) reports that the “renaming of North America’s highest peak from Mt. McKinley to Denali was recognized Wednesday by federal and tribal officials at the Tanana Chief’s Conference annual meeting in Fairbanks.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewel “took action last summer to formally re-name Mt. McKinley to its traditional Athabascan name Denali.” Jewell’s senior advisor for Alaska affairs Michael Johnson “pointed to the significance the name change in an address to Tanana Chiefs Conference delegates.” Johnson said, “This is a symbol, but it’s an important one ‘cause it’s about respect. And that’s, I think, first and foremost why the secretary was happy to do it.”

REP. CLAWSON SEEKS \$500 MILLION TO BUY LAND IN EVERGLADES. The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 131K) reports that “in what’s intended as a long-term solution to the damaging discharges of nutrient-laden waters from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie rivers, U.S. Rep. Curt Clawson wants the Interior Department to buy land south of the lake for water storage.” Clawson introduced the Everglades Land

Acquisition Act on Friday. If enacted, the measure would "set aside \$500 million for the Interior Department to buy the land in the Everglades Agriculture Area in Palm Beach County after a study, also authorized in the bill, determined the right location."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (3/18, 190K).

NEW MEXICO STILL EYEING LAWSUIT AGAINST EPA OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL. [KUNM-FM](#)

Albuquerque, NM (3/20, 4K) reports that the EPA is "acknowledging the concerns of officials in New Mexico and elsewhere that spring runoff could stir up contaminants left behind by the Gold King Mine spill in southern Colorado." EPA Regional Administrator Ron Curry "wrote in a letter to the state's congressional delegation that the federal agency is providing \$2 million for long-term monitoring and planning." Curry also "confirmed the agency is reviewing the state's most recent request to be reimbursed \$1.5 million for expenses related to the August 2015 spill." However, "that will not dissuade state officials from pursuing a lawsuit against EPA." Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn said "he wants to see a long-term monitoring program and that's the biggest stumbling block right now."

ALASKA LOSES BID FOR EASEMENTS ALONG HISTORIC TRAILS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/18, 2K) reports that "in court, the state of Alaska lost its bid for easements along historic trails across Native Allotments near Chicken, in Interior Alaska." The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals held "in favor of the U.S. Department of Interior, Tanana Chiefs Conference and Native allotment owners Agnes and Anne Purdy."

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION PROJECTS. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/20, 37K) reports that "federal and state agencies recently announced available funding for enhancing sage grouse habitat in Montana." The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service is "offering funding to private landowners for reducing the encroachment of conifers in sage grouse habitat." The state of Montana is also "offering funding to conservation agencies and organizations for projects benefiting sage grouse through the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team."

SEN. MURKOWSKI LOOKS TO ADDRESS PUERTO RICO'S ENERGY PROBLEMS. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Commerce Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski said "she was looking for ways to address the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico's long-standing energy problems." She said, "The fact of the matter is, their energy answer right now, it's not sustainable for them as an island." The article notes that "one major issue is the island's heavy reliance on importing oil for electricity, which continues to be wildly expensive despite the recent drop in prices."

REP. JONES MOVES TO BLOCK PORN ON FEDERAL COMPUTERS. In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (3/19, Hellmann, 862K) reports that Rep. Walter Jones is "leading a crusade to stop federal employees from watching and downloading porn on government equipment while at work." Jones "sent a letter to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers asking that future appropriations bills include language ensuring that computer networks funded by the government block the viewing, downloading and exchanging of porn." The article notes that "in an appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016, some federal agencies were blocked from watching porn, but not all." According to Jones, "language in the bill requires that computer networks funded by the government block the viewing, downloading and exchanging of porn, but while it covers several divisions of government, it left out divisions that include the EPA, SEC and Department of Interior, agencies that have all seen issues with employees surfing porn at work."

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES CALL FOR BREAKUP OF FEDERAL LAND. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, 1.99M) reports that "lost amid the shouting and relentless political attacks, the remaining Republican presidential candidates have found at least one area of agreement: the call for the federal government to relinquish its claim to the gigantic public wildemess of the West, a mostly contiguous patchwork nearly four times the size of Texas."

STUDIES FIND PAY DROPS IN FIELDS WHERE FEMALES ENTER. The [New York Times](#) (3/18, Miller, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reported on a Cornell University study that finds the single largest cause of the gender pay gap is "the difference between the occupations and industries" in which men and women work, and on a University of Haifa study that found that pay declines when women enter a field due to gender bias that work by women is less valuable. The latter study found that when the field of park recreation went from predominantly male to female, median hourly wages declined 57 percentage points, but that the reverse was true when jobs went from female to male, as it did with computer programming.

AP ANALYSIS: ADMINISTRATION SETS RECORD FOR FAILURES TO FIND FILES. An [AP](#) (3/18, Bridis,

Gillum) analysis of government data revealed the Administration “set a record for the number of times its federal employees told disappointed citizens, journalists and others that despite searching they couldn’t find a single page requested under the Freedom of Information Act.” The AP claims “in more than one in six cases, or 129,825 times, government searchers said they came up empty-handed last year.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS PALMER BAYOU BOARDWALK

DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication of the new Palmer Bayou Boardwalk in the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [Cleveland \(TX\) Advocate](#) (3/18, 73K), the [Eastex \(TX\) Advocate](#) (3/20), and [AmmoLand](#) (3/20, 9K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR DELISTED. Additional coverage of the decision to delist the Louisiana black bear was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, McConnaughey, Press, 1.99M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, McConnaughey, 285K), and [KLFY-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (3/20, 39K).

INTERIOR URGED TO END COAL’S SELF-BONDING “SCAM”. In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M) says that Sen. Maria Cantwell is asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “to protect taxpayers from a long-standing scam in federal legislation that lets coal companies avoid their duty to clean up the lucrative mess they have made.” The paper urges the Obama Administration to “support a prohibition on any new self-bonds for coal-mining reclamation going forward.” It concludes: “end this scam available to the coal industry.”

In an op-ed for the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/20, 616K), Howard A. Leamer, executive director, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Chicago, writes that “the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is allowing Peabody Energy to potentially stick Indiana taxpayers with the company’s \$163 million of mine reclamation costs.” He argues Indiana officials to “heed the warning signals and act quickly to require Peabody to purchase surety bonds or otherwise provide necessary funds to provide for its mine reclamation responsibilities before it is too late.”

UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL URGED TO LOOK AT LAWSUIT OVER FEDERAL LANDS RATIONALLY.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) editorializes that “the campaign to take control of federal land within Utah’s borders is now in the province of Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, who is charged with deciding whether to proceed with an expensive lawsuit against the federal government to compel the transfer of more than 30 million acres.” The paper says that “in approaching that decision, Reyes is duty-bound to act objectively, cautiously and sensibly to offer his client the best legal advice, regardless of which direction the political winds would tend to push him.” According to the editorial, “from the start, the lands transfer campaign has been steeped in anti-federal sentiment, and whether it represents sound economic policy has been something of a secondary consideration.” It concludes that “the primary consideration now is whether it reasonably can be accomplished through lengthy litigation, a question the attorney general needs to approach with the sober eye of a prudent lawyer.”

OP-ED: EMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS OPPOSE PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE. In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K), artist and author Jonathan Bailey writes that “to rural Utah residents, Rob Bishop’s Public Lands Initiative is seen as ‘shortsighted.’” he claims that “the sentiment from Emery County residents is clear: Not only are they concerned about the impacts but they are overwhelmingly skeptical of any economic benefits.”

DRABELLE REVIEWS “RIGHTFUL HERITAGE” BY DOUGLAS BRINKLEY. In a [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Drabelle, 8.98M) piece, Dennis Drabelle reviews the book “Rightful Heritage” by Douglas Brinkley on president Franklin D. Roosevelt, whom he calls “a tree-hugger from way back” who incorporated major landscapes of the early United States into its national park and wildlife systems. Drabelle says that Brinkley “is good at showing how strands of Roosevelt’s life united to shape approaches to preservation that other presidents might have missed” and demonstrates the work and legacy of the former president as a conservationist.

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES HAVE GAINED ALMOST 400,000 ACRES UNDER OBAMA

ADMINISTRATION. The [AP](#) (3/20, Marcelo, Press, 1.99M) reports that “Native American tribes have been steadily gaining lands under President Barack Obama’s administration.” According to data from the BIA, “nearly 400,000 acres have been placed into trust for tribes since Obama took office in 2009.” Obama has “pledged to place a total of 500,000 acres into trust for tribes before his tenure ends.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (3/20, 4M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/20, Marcelo, 881K), the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (3/20, 76K), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (3/20, 534K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/20, Philip Marcelo |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, Marcelo, 285K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/20, 4.92M).

BILL TACKLES DAM MAINTENANCE BACKLOG IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "dams are the latest outstanding infrastructure problem in Native American communities that Senate Indian Affairs Chairman John Barrasso wants to tackle." Barrasso and Sen. John McCain introduced the "Dam Repairs and Improvements for Tribes (DRIFT) Act" last week "in hopes of fixing dams and improving flood prevention across Indian Country." S. 2717 would "establish a revenue stream to clear more than \$500 million in deferred maintenance costs at tribal dams over the next 20 years." The measure would also "create a tribal flood mitigation program within the Department of the Interior."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (3/20, 22K).

SEN. MCCAIN PUSHES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT. [Cronkite News](#) (3/18) reports that "tribal leaders were noncommittal Friday about a proposal that would divert Bureau of Indian Education funds into education savings accounts that individual Native American children could use to attend schools of their choosing." Sen. John McCain said "he introduced the Native American Education Opportunity Act because BIE schools have 'absolutely failed' students, contributing to high unemployment and substance abuse – issues that have 'plagued the Native American population.'" The measure would "create education savings accounts that could be used toward covering the cost of private schools, books, tutors and other educational needs for tribal youth."

COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS OVER COWLITZ TRIBE'S CASINO. The [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (3/18, 72K) reports that "the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's bid to build a \$510 million mega-casino will again be tested this week as their case heads to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C." Last year, the Interior Department "placed 156 acres of property between Ridgefield and La Center into a 'trust' for the tribe, in effect creating a reservation." According to the article, "observers say the outcome could have ripple effects across the nation, especially for tribes trying to establish a reservation or gain federal recognition."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Centralia \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, 903) and the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/18, 94K).

BIA SEEKS TO PREVENT OVERDOSES WITH NALOXENE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, 48K) reports that "cities and counties across the country now allow police and emergency rescue personnel to carry and administer naloxone, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs allows many of its officers to carry naloxone on patrol and many Indian Health Service pharmacies now dispense the drug." On March 10, the Senate "passed a bill to combat opioid abuse." The legislation will make naloxone more available.

QUINULT PRESIDENT TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS. The [Seattle Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M) reports that Quinalt Indian Nation President Fawn Sharp "told a congressional committee that the United States is falling short of meeting its treaty obligations and trust responsibilities, citing more than \$4 million the tribe is forced to come up with to supplement inadequate federal funding." In testimony last Thursday before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Sharp "asked the government to support line-item requests by federal agencies supporting climate-change response and enforcement programs for tribes across the country totaling \$209.6 million as well as \$11.3 million to help support Quinalt Nation programs in salmon-habitat restoration programs and road construction and improvement."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (3/20, 1K).

PII PAASH UUMISH HOSTS "WATERS CONNECT US" ACTIVIST EVENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/18, Hand, 48K) reported on "The Waters Connect Us" event hosted by Pii Paash Uumish of the Gila River Indian Community in Phoenix, in which "poets, spoken-word artists, musicians, painters" and others paid homage to the late poet and activist John Trudell. Keynote speakers spoke on community empowerment, and attendees helped to strategize "the next steps for the Pii Paash water protection campaign."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO OWNERS OF FOND DU LAC LAND.

Additional coverage that land buy-back offers have been made to 3,200 Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa landowners was provided by the [Pine \(MN\) Journal](#) (3/20, 15K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR APPROVES \$1.8M IN GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 641) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina "approved \$1.8 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to the Government of American Samoa from the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP)." Kia'aina said, "This year's funding reflects the priorities and needs of the people of American Samoa including self-determination, climate change adaptation, addressing threats to public health, and workforce development both in areas of health and public works. I am particularly pleased that we can support Governor Lolo Moliga, American Samoa's leadership, and the community in their efforts to advance political status options and climate change adaptation and resiliency initiatives."

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FOR ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE PARKING LOT PAVING PROJECT. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/20) reports that "a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Rota Mayor's Office parking lot paving project." Funded by the Interior Department through the Office of Insular Affairs, "the project has been contracted to Pacific Cooperation in the amount of \$187,145 and is to be completed by 180 calendar days."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR, EPA, PARTNER WITH WESTERN WATER DISTRICTS ON INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM. [WaterWorld](#) (3/20, 96) reports that "three of the West's largest municipal water agencies have partnered with federal agencies to kick off the latest round of an expanded competitive grant program aimed at discovering the next generation of water-saving devices and technologies." According to the article, "for the first time," the EPA is participating with the BOR "as well as the Central Arizona Project, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Southern Nevada Water Authority in the Innovative Conservation Program." BOR's Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp said, "These kinds of successful programs with our partners are an important tool in Reclamation's Colorado River water management responsibilities as we face the effects of years of drought and the influences of climate variability."

BOR CATCHES RARE, WHITE STURGEON AT KLAMATH FALLS RESERVOIR. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the BOR caught a "massive white sturgeon" on "Monday morning at the mouth of the Link River where it empties into Lake Ewauna." According to Jared Bottcher, fish biologist for the BOR, "sturgeon were planted in Upper Klamath Lake in the late 1950s." The article says that "sturgeon have been found in Upper Klamath Lake and other places, but not in Lake Ewauna."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/18, 94K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, O'Brien, 285K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/20, 1.12M), and [KOB-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (3/20).

JUDGE TO HEAR CASE ABOUT WATER MANAGEMENT IN UPPER DESCHUTES. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/20, 2K) reports that "a federal judge in Eugene will hear a case Tuesday about water management in the Upper Deschutes River." Jim McCarthy with WaterWatch of Oregon says his group "opted to file a lawsuit against the Bureau of Reclamation after eight years of trying to collaborate through a collaborative effort called the Habitat Conservation Plan Working Group."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/21, 98K).

UTAH URGES LOCAL OWNERSHIP OF SOME FEDERAL WATER PROJECTS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) reports that "Utah lawmakers are pushing the state's congressional delegation to pursue the transfer of title on certain federal water projects already paid off by local users." Rep. Mike McKell "ran and got passed HJR4 in the 2016 legislative session that ended this month, urging title transfer of several Bureau of Reclamation projects that have construction costs paid off by local users, including the canal portion of the Strawberry Valley project and the Moon Lake, Emery County, Sanpete County and Provo River projects." McKell said, "There certainly is an appetite to see a transfer at this point, but it will take a lot of work and a lot of folks coming together to make sure all their interests are considered. This is not just a Utah issue. There are projects across the nation that have been repaid."

BOR NAMES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR LOWER COLORADO REGION. The [Havasui \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (3/20, 27K) reports that the BOR's Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp "announced the selection of Jacklynn L. Gould as the region's new deputy regional director."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. Continuing coverage of the drought in California was provided by [NPR](#) (3/18, 1.81M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/18, Stevens, 4.1M), and the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 279K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPUBLICAN RIVER BASIN STUDY RELEASED. Additional coverage of the release of the Republican River Basin Study was provided by the [McCook \(NE\) Daily Gazette](#) (3/20, 18K).

DELTA TUNNELS QUESTIONED. The [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (3/20, 35K) editorializes that “for years now, Gov. Jerry Brown has been telling us that he will save the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – the greatest freshwater estuary on this side of the continent – by taking water out of it.” It notes that “among the biggest and most enthusiastic backers is the largest irrigation district in the world, Westlands Water District, and the largest urban water supplier in the world, Metropolitan Water District.” The Securities and Exchange Commission “fined Westlands \$125,000 to settle the charges last week.” The paper asks: “How can we trust anything untruthful Westlands says? How do we keep faith in Westlands’ partners – Metropolitan and Brown?”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY TO HOST FORUM ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY. [Shore News Today](#) (NJ) (3/20) reports that Stockton University will “host a forum Tuesday, March 29 to discuss New Jersey’s potential to harbor an offshore wind energy industry.” Walter Cruickshank, deputy director of the BOEM, is the keynote speaker. At the end of 2015, the BOEM “sold two leases of nearly 344,000 acres for offshore wind energy development in New Jersey waters to RES America Developments Inc. and U.S. Wind Inc.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US OPENS UP NEW YORK COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BORM “took another step toward boosting ocean windpower by identifying an 8,130 acre wind area energy south of Long Island, New York” was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/18, 506), [Renewable Energy World](#) (3/20, 2K), [Windtech International](#) (3/20), and [Clean Technology Business Review](#) (3/20).

Onshore Energy Development:

CONSERVATIONISTS CHALLENGE BLM OVER FOSSIL FUEL PLANS. [Courthouse News](#) (3/18, 7K) reports that “the federal government has fast-tracked approval of a dramatic escalation of mining and drilling activity on 6.6 million acres of virgin land in Montana and Wyoming, conservationists claim in court.” According to the article, “in a complaint filed Tuesday in the Great Falls, Mont. Federal Court, the Western Organization of Resource Councils and others claim the Bureau of Land Management failed to exercise appropriate due diligence before approving resource management plans allowing for 18,000 new oil and gas well in the two states, as well as the mining of more than 100 billion tons of coal.” The plaintiffs contend that “by doing so that agency failed to adequately consider the affects of fossil fuel production on the environment.”

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE OPPOSES DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/19, 48K) reports that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is “trying to stop” the \$3.4 billion Dakota Access Pipeline. According to the article, “while the pipeline would not technically run directly through the Standing Rock Reservation, it would cross the Missouri River only a few hundred feet upstream from Standing Rock’s border, less than a mile from the community of Cannon Ball.” Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault has “already met with and garnered support from officials in Washington representing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.”

BANKS CUTTING FINANCING TO COAL INDUSTRY. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Corkery, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports JPMorgan Chase joined Bank of America, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley as big banks that are, “in one way or another, backing away from coal.” Some banks say its in order to address climate change, but bankers also reportedly say that lending to coal companies “is too risky and could ultimately prove unprofitable.” The Times adds that even “more daring investors like hedge funds and private equity firms, which are usually eager to pounce on industries in distress,” are distancing themselves from coal because of the industry’s uncertain future.

OIL DRILLING TO BEGIN IN "VAST, UNSPOILED SWEEP" OF NEVADA. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/21, Brean, 479K) reports that the US Bureau of Land Management approved Makoil Inc. to drill in "a vast, unspoiled sweep" of Nevada in the Basin and Range National Monument, recognizing existing, valid drilling rights. Nevada Minerals Division Deputy Administrator Mike Visser said "The area encompassed by the national monument has seen oil exploration in the past," but only one of six wells reported oil and gas production and none are operating today. If Makoil does find oil, the company "will need to generate electricity on site to run its production operation," given that the area's protected status "prohibits new power lines from being built across the monument."

OREGON FIRST STATE TO BAN COAL IN POWER SECTOR. [Newsweek](#) (3/20, 693K) reports that last Friday, "Oregon became the first state to ban coal outright, passing a bill that will phase out any electricity generated by coal by 2035." The case of Oregon is a "unique one" and it is "far from clear" whether other states will follow suit. Dave Robertson of Portland General Electric said that, "utilities are really coming to grips with how they need to adapt to a changing climate" and no new coal plants are planned in the US.

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: LOCAL PROTESTS AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS SEEK GLOBAL RESULTS. A 1237-word [New York Times](#) (3/19, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis reported on recent opposition by environmental activists against what the article calls "Keystone-ization," or all "new oil, gas, and coal infrastructure projects." As part of this, the article indicated that this activism "combines traditional not-in-my-backyard protests against fossil-fuel projects with an overarching concern about climate change." Speaking to one protester, Colby Shultz, at the March 7 protest at a natural gas plant, he said, "There's a climate emergency happening ... It's a life-or-death struggle." The article provided in depth coverage of some of these protests and protest tactics, and also mentioned that following a July "kayaktivist" blockade in Portland, Oregon to keep Shell's Arctic drilling rigs from departing the port, the City Council "passed a resolution opposing the expansion of facilities for the storage and transportation of fossil fuels."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUP SAYS COAL COMPANIES RELY HEAVILY ON PUBLIC LANDS.

Additional coverage that "the three biggest coal mining companies in the United States depend on federal coal for the vast majority of coal they mine each year," according to Greenpeace, was provided by [CleanTechnica](#) (3/18, 18K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR RECLAIM ACT. In an op-ed for the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20), attorney Jack Kennedy commends Rep. Hal Rogers for introducing the RECLAIM Act. He argues that "we owe our miners and their families a heartfelt debt of gratitude for generations of their sacrifice and hard work." Kennedy concludes: "By thinking creatively about how existing federal programs can be used, Rogers and his colleagues have proposed a 'low-hanging fruit' option that could immediately infuse the region with capital to address environmental concerns while rebuilding a diverse and sustainable economy complete with high-tech energy jobs of the 21st century."

The piece also appears at the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, 337K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S COAL REGULATIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 917), Terry Jarrett, an energy attorney and consultant, and is a former commissioner of the Missouri Public Service Commission, criticizes the Obama Administration's coal regulations. He notes that the Interior Department "recently proposed a complete overhaul of coal mining regulations, largely replacing environmental oversight by the states with a massive new set of federal rules so broad as to potentially render more than half of U.S. coal reserves off-limits." Also, "even though states have demonstrated considerable success in policing their respective mining sectors, the 'Stream Protection Rule' (SPR) proposed by the Obama Administration has morphed into a staggering expansion of regulatory controls that, if fully implemented, could eliminate up to 280,000 jobs tied to the coal sector." Jarrett warns that these "proposals would result in higher electricity costs."

The piece also appears at the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/18, 472K).

FORMER BLM STATE DIRECTORS: BLM MUST ASSESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL. In a [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/20, 402K) op-ed, former BLM state directors Ann J. Morgan and Larry Hamilton wrote "BLM's coal leasing program needs to change" because of both financial markets and concerns for climate change, citing statements by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell that the BLM has "an obligation to current and future generations" to ensure the federal coal program "takes into account its impacts on climate change." Morgan and Hamilton call for the BLM to do "a comprehensive environmental analysis" that includes "the full

impact of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases associated with coal production on public land.”

EDITORIAL: COAL A PART OF ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY POLICY. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/20, 479K) editorializes in response to remarks by Hillary Clinton that her energy policy would harm coal firms and jobs, that coal “is a vital part of a clean, affordable and convenient energy mix.” Despite safety and environmental advances, “this era of environmental hysteria has seen the fossil fuel and nuclear power industries become unfair targets of propaganda, politics and misinformation.” The Review-Journal writes that “it’s time to dial down completely unnecessary regulations and get behind a truly all-of-the-above energy policy.”

CAMPION PRAISES ADMINISTRATION’S “BOLD ACTION” ON NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY. In a [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/18, 47K) op-ed, EnergyWorks CEO Douglas Campion wrote that “impacts of climate change and outdated natural resources policies” demand “a new way of thinking,” and said that President Obama’s energy policies are the “bold actions” needed to innovate the economy. Campion praised the planned review of the federal coal leasing program, natural gas reforms by the Department of Interior, and the establishment of new monuments as steps to preserve resources for future generations.

Offshore Energy Development:

NASA TO ADVISE BSEE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING RISK REDUCTION. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the BSEE and NASA are “embarking on a five-year partnership to improve offshore risk management.” Under the agreement, NASA will “share its probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) technique, technology evaluation processes, and failure and near-miss assessments. BSEE reached out to NASA because of the agency’s specialization in designing innovative technology for unconventional environments.” BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, “Both BSEE and NASA work in harsh and uncompromising environments, relying on cutting edge technology to go deeper and further than previously thought possible. This partnership brings together technical experts from BSEE and NASA to focus on the specific risks associated with offshore operations so that we can continue to find ways to improve safety for offshore workers and protect the environment.”

Additional coverage was provided by [World Oil](#) (3/20).

REP. HUDSON INTRODUCES BILL ALLOWING LEASING OFF NC COAST. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Yehle, Subscription Publication) reported that Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) last week introduced HR 4749, which would direct the Interior secretary to hold one lease sale off the coast of North Carolina every five years. While the bill is “unlikely to go far,” it “reflects Republican frustration with the administration’s surprise decision this week to take the Atlantic out of its five-year leasing plan.”

ALABAMA BEGINS WORK ON HOTEL USING BP MONEY FROM SEPARATE FUND. The [AP](#) (3/18, Reeves) reported that Alabama has begun construction on a multimillion-dollar hotel and conference center at Gulf State Park funded in part by money from the BP oil spill. Construction has begun “just weeks after a federal judge blocked the state from paying for the work with money from BP, the director of the project, Cooper Shattuck, said Thursday.” According to Shattuck, the project is legal because it is funded from a different source of BP money, not the one blocked by the judge. The Gulf Restoration Network, which sued over the project, “conceded that the funding mechanism is legal but called the move disappointing nonetheless.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. Additional coverage of the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 was provided by the [Coastal Point \(DE\)](#) (3/20), the [Sumter \(SC\) The Item](#) (3/20, 55K), the [Robesonian \(NC\)](#) (3/20, 41K), the [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (3/21, 148K), the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (3/20, 24K), the [Lynchburg \(VA\) News & Advance](#) (3/20, 92K), the [Ketchikan \(AK\) SitNews](#) (3/19), the [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (3/20, 236K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, 337K), the [Savannah \(GA\) Moming News](#) (3/20, 155K), the [Greenwood \(SC\) Index-Journal](#) (3/20, 35K), [Environment News Service](#) (3/17, 247), and [PoliticusUSA](#) (3/19, 34K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM DEVELOPING NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING AIR STANDARDS. Additional coverage of the “proposed updated air quality regulations that will more accurately account for emissions from offshore oil and gas activity” was provided by [World Oil](#) (3/20), [Rigzone](#) (3/20, 8K), and [Splash 24/7 \(SGP\)](#) (3/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NOBEL LAUREATES URGE ARCTIC COUNCIL TO CEASE DRILLING. Additional coverage that “six female Nobel laureates” have “urged Arctic countries to put a stop to drilling in the

region" was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/18, 211K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS IN CLEAN UP OF NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 211K) reports that "the federal government is fixing an environmental mess it left decades ago in the nation's largest oil reserve, removing rusting relics from an early era of exploration and providing a small counterweight of new jobs to the huge cutbacks on the North Slope oil patch." According to the article, "the progress was highlighted Tuesday with a ceremonial plugging of a decades-old well in the giant National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska." BLM Director Neil Komze "poured a bucket of cement mix into an 8-inch-wide pipe, helping plug a well drilled in 1951 near the frozen U.S. Arctic Ocean."

BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ADVISORY COUNCILS. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (3/20, 32K) reports that the BLM is "seeking public nominations for open positions on 34 resource advisory councils, which advise the BLM on public land issues." The bureau's Northwest and Southwest Colorado districts are "seeking public nominations for 10 open positions on their Resource Advisory Councils." BLM Director Neil Komze said, "The BLM resource advisory councils are an important forum for the community conversation that is a key component of public land management. With representatives with different land use perspectives, the RACs give community members an opportunity to dig into local issues and explore possible solutions."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/18, 47K), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\) Las Cruces, NM](#) (3/20, 1K), and [KMVT-TV Twin Falls \(ID\) Twin Falls, ID](#) (3/20, 1K).

"MR. SAGEBRUSH REBELLION" BANKROLLS PUSH TO SEIZE FEDERAL LAND. [Greenwire](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Bert Smith, who calls himself "Mr. Sagebrush Rebellion" has "quietly bankrolled a bevy of groups challenging the federal government's ownership of roughly 640 million acres of Western lands." According to the article, "the World War II veteran and ranch owner was a key leader in the 1970s push by ranchers and counties to defy Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land control." The article mentions that Smith calls jailed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy a "hero." The Ogden, Utah, resident

BLM RANGER JAILED UNDER QUESTIONABLE PRETENSES. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/21, 74K) reports that "in early December, a Bureau of Land Management ranger at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, in southern Utah, had a casual office conversation with a colleague about his frustration with how a holiday party was disrupting his day's work." Then, "two days later, he was in a Garfield County jail cell, purportedly for what he had said." The ranger, Jeff Ellison, was in his second year working with the bureau. According to the article, "whether Ellison's arrest was a form of intimidation or a simple misunderstanding is not yet clear."

DORENA GENETIC RESOURCE CENTER TRYING TO FIGHT PATHOGENS THAT KILLS SOME PINES AND CEDARS. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/21, 194K) reports that the Dorena Genetic Resource Center "collects the seeds and nurtures them into seedlings in the hopes of identifying those most resistant to disease, in particular two specific pathogens that have wreaked havoc among certain pines and a type of cedar." According to the article, "when the center periodically succeeds in cultivating disease-resistant seedlings, it gives them to U.S. Forest Service nurseries for eventual planting in the wild."

BLM SETS DATES FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTIONS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 51K) reports that the BLM says "it will hold its wild horse and burro adoption events in May and September."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REP. CHAFFETZ SEEKS MORE INFORMATION ON BLM, FOREST SERVICE BONUSES. Additional coverage of the letter sent to the BLM seeking information on employee awards or bonuses was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/20, Davidson, 8.98M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM SEEKS TO REHABILITATE LAND AFTER SODA FIRE. Additional coverage of the rehabilitation efforts after the Soda Fire was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/19, Wiley, 285K) and the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/20, 51K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUNDY'S CATTLE POSES PROBLEM. Additional coverage of the quandary

posed by jailed Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy's cattle was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/21, 74K).

MINNESOTANS DISCUSS REGULATORY PROCESS FOR TWIN METALS COPPER-NICKEL MINE. In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/20, 1.25M) says the editorial board has "long held serious doubts that copper mining can be done responsibly at the Twin Metals site." However, just days after PolyMet, the state's first copper-nickel proposal, had its environmental-impact state called "adequate" following after a 10-year, state-driven review, moves made by Gov. Mark Dayton and the Bureau of Land Management to block the Twin Metals copper-nickel mine "raises serious questions about whether the mine review process is sufficiently insulated from politics." BLM could rule against automatically renewing Twin Metals' leases on thousands of acres of federal land, "a sign that officials may be weighing a protective zone on federal land around" Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Dayton also made a "personal call to the BLM's director to object to mining so close to the federally protected wilderness." The Star Tribune still opposes the Twin Metals mine, but hopes the "current science-based environmental-review process" should provide a sufficient, transparent ruling.

In the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune's](#) (3/20, 139K) "Reader's View" section, Becky Rom, national chairwoman for the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, praises the newspaper for "covering the threat of proposed sulfide-ore mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed." She also clarifies a point made in an March 17 editorial, saying the Department of Interior staff "has not been unresponsive to our request to withdraw federal minerals within the Boundary Waters watershed." The department has indicated it has received the request, and BLM "deserves credit for taking steps to ensure Twin Metals' expired leases receive a fair and full environmental review before any determination is made about whether they will be renewed." She is optimistic BLM will grant her request.

PUBLIC LAND GRAZING SAVES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT \$750 MILLION PER YEAR. In [The Hill's](#) (3/18, Richards, 862K) "Congress Blog," Brenda Richards, president of the Public Lands Council and an Idaho rancher, discusses the importance of public land ranching. Ranchers contribute to the nation's food supply and perform maintenance on the government land they lease. Richards writes that if you consider the costs of land maintenance, public land ranchers "ultimately save the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) more than \$750 million in taxpayer dollars each year." It costs the BLM \$5 per acre for necessary land maintenance on public lands, while it only costs the agency \$2 per acre "for land that's allotted for grazing since the ranger makes such a significant investment in maintaining the land for the government." Richards says public land ranchers "are able to turn an otherwise unusable natural resource into healthy, free-range, high-quality protein while reducing the land management burden and budget demands of our federal government."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS HANDS OUT BOATING GRANTS. [Trade Only](#) (3/20) reports that the FWS has "announced nearly \$14 million in grants to 32 states, commonwealths and territories for projects to support recreational boating through the service's Boating Infrastructure Grant program." FWS Director Dan Ashe said in a statement, "Our recreational boats and boat docks share the water with fish and wildlife species critical to our ecology and economy," service. "In the same way good hunting practices and land stewardship benefit terrestrial wildlife, boating facilities can benefit aquatic species by keeping waterways clean and driving revenues to state wildlife agencies through fishing that can be placed back into conservation. It's a cycle of success. Not only do these grants help to create safe and improved recreational boating facilities and provide improved access to boating and fishing opportunities — they put people to work."

HOUSE PANEL BLASTS FWS' REFUSAL TO USE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS AND REPORTING SYSTEM. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS "refuses to use a multimillion-dollar law enforcement records system that the Interior Department has spent more than a decade developing." The House Natural Resources Committee "highlighted the standoff at a hearing" last week of its Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. According to the article, "both Republicans and Democrats criticized Interior's handling of the database, which is meant to be a department wide repository for criminal investigations."

FWS PETITIONED TO PROTECT BLACK BEARS AS ENDANGERED SPECIES. [Greenwire](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "nearly 20 conservation groups and a half dozen scientists" last week called on the FWS to protect the Florida black bear under the Endangered Species Act. In a petition to agency, "the coalition argued that Florida's largest land mammal is at risk from habitat loss, vehicles and state-sanctioned hunts." The groups want FWS "to add the species to the threatened or endangered species list and

to set aside critical habitat, in which developments undertaken or permitted by the federal government should alleviate threats to bears.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (3/17, 712K).

RESTORATION ON TISHOMINGO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO BEGIN. The AP (3/20, 51K) reports that the FWS says “it will begin restoring the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge damaged by torrential rains last May and June.” According to the article, “the heavy rains caused widespread flooding throughout Texas and Oklahoma, affecting nine national wildlife refuges and a national fish hatchery in both states.” The Tishomingo refuge was hit with “the most extensive damage in Oklahoma, with about 85 percent of the refuge underwater for nearly three months.”

WORK ON WEST FORK RIVER DAM REMOVAL PROJECT TO BEGIN MONDAY. The AP (3/18, 285K) reports that “the removal of the first of three Clarksburg Water Board dams on the West Fork River is set to start next week, officials said.” According to FWS Coordinator Callie McMunigal, “a contractor will start moving in heavy equipment Monday at the West Milford Dam.” McMunigal said “the dam’s removal should take about three weeks, at which time workers will then proceed to remove the Two-Lick Dam, followed by the Highland Dam.”

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SET TO START IN PRIME HOOK WILDLIFE REFUGE. The AP (3/21, Press, 8.98M) reports that “road crews are set to begin work on a project aimed at alleviating flooding problems on the main road running through the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.” Gov. Jack Markell and Sen. Tom Carper were “among the guests scheduled to attend a ground breaking ceremony Monday for bridge construction and road improvements on Prime Hook Road.” According to the article, “the construction project includes a concrete-girder bridge on piles that will cross a new drainage channel being built by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER MAY LOSE ITS ENDANGERED CLASSIFICATION. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/20, 290K) reports that the FWS “last week published a finding indicating that there was ‘substantial information’ that the Southwestern willow flycatcher is not a subspecies, the designation under which it was classified as endangered in 1995.” According to the article, “the findings published in the National Register on Wednesday indicate that delisting the bird may be warranted ‘based on information related to taxonomic status.’” Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, “We’re still determining our way forward on resolving that question and are seeking information on the subspecies’ classification and genetics.”

AERIAL GUNNING REDUCES WYOMING WOLF PACK THAT KILLED CATTLE. The AP (3/18, 285K) reports that “wildlife managers have killed five wolves from a large pack that had been killing yearling cattle in western Wyoming.” According to the article, “the Dell Creek Pack numbered as many as 16 animals and repeatedly killed cows grazing on private rangeland in the Hoback River Basin southeast of Jackson this winter.” FWS Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Coordinator Mike Jimenez says that the “Dell Creek Pack hadn’t started killing livestock until this winter.”

FOUR BALD EAGLES DIE IN DELAWARE. The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Weil, 8.98M) reports that “four bald eagles died over the weekend in Delaware after being found about 30 miles from where 13 eagles were found dead last month in Maryland.” According to the article, “the causes of the deaths were not known.”

NARWHAL IVORY SMUGGLER EXTRADITED TO US FOR MONEY LAUNDERING TRIAL. [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, 442K) reports that “a former member of Canada’s federal police force was extradited to the United States on March 11 and is being held in custody until his trial in May on charges of money laundering from a \$2-million operation to smuggle ivory from narwhal between the two countries.” In an announcement of Gregory R. Logan’s extradition, Ed Grace, deputy chief of law enforcement for the FWS, said, “Modern wildlife crime investigations often track money as much as they track animals. This case shows the breadth of the illegal wildlife trade, normally associated with elephant ivory and rhino horn. Even species of the deep polar waters are not safe until we extinguish the market for protected animals and with it, the livelihood of criminal profiteers who benefit from their exploitation.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MILITARY POSTPONES TORTOISE RELOCATION PLAN. Additional coverage that “the Marine Corps base at Twenty-Nine Palms said Friday it had postponed plans to move 1,185 tortoises off prospective combat training grounds until wildlife agencies can determine whether the plan complies with the Endangered Species Act” was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/19, Sahagun, 4.1M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO RAISE WHOOPING CRANES. Additional coverage of the effort

to raise whooping cranes was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (3/18, McConnaughey, 285K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ALBATROSS GIVES BIRTH AT 65. Additional coverage that Wisdom, “a Laysan albatross named Wisdom – she’s at least 65 years old – became a mother again last month” was provided by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/20).

FWS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RECOGNIZED. In an editorial, the [Key West \(FL\) Keynoter](#) (3/18, 28K) congratulates Jared Brierley, a FWS law enforcement officer, who has been named the 2015 James A. Clark Officer of the Year for the southeast region. Brierley “received his award this month at a training session in Mississippi and was recognized for his leadership in ‘resource law enforcement,’ cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and his professional demeanor.”

National Park Service:

BING PARTNERS WITH NPS FOR #FINDYOURPARK PHOTO CONTEST. [Search Engine Land](#) (3/20, 11K) reports that “Bing has partnered with the US National Park Service for the organization’s centennial celebrations and is hosting a #FindYourPark photo contest to help promote the US’s 59 national parks.” According to the article, “the grand prize winner’s photo will be featured on Bing’s home page during National Park Week and will serve as the cover photo on Bing’s Facebook and Twitter pages for all of April in honor of Earth Month.”

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by [CBS News](#) (3/20, 3.97M), [NPR](#) (3/19, 1.81M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/20, 1.25M), the [Poughkeepsie \(NY\) Journal](#) (3/18, 113K), and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (3/18, Leadbeater, 929K).

YOSEMITE FIGHT OVER NAMES ESCALATES AS NPS PUSHES TO CANCEL TRADEMARKS. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has “opened up a new front in the fight over the names of historic hotels and other beloved landmarks at Yosemite National Park.” The park service has “asked a federal trademark board to cancel trademarks obtained by the company that previously ran the park’s hotels, restaurants and outdoor activities.” Attorneys for the U.S. Department of the Interior told the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board that the trademark registrations were causing “damage and injury” to the NPS.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Kaplan, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/19, Press, 8.98M), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (3/21, Press, 251K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/20, 569K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/20, 1.1M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/19, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/20, 285K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/20, 3.37M), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (3/20, 333K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/20, 4.92M), [Skift](#) (3/19), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/21, 6.31M), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/20, 352K), and [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (3/20, 104K).

INTERIOR SUPPORTS BILL TO INCLUDE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE IN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. [E&E Daily](#) (3/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department was “largely supportive of nearly two dozen bills under consideration” last week in the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. According to the article, “the most controversial bill that Peggy O’Dell, the National Park Service’s deputy director for operations, gave the administration’s blessing to was S. 1975, a bill from Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) to establish the Sewall-Belmont House as a unit of the national park system.” Mikulski’s bill is “co-sponsored by over half of the 20 women in the Senate, including Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the full committee.” However, “Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), the chairman of the subcommittee, pressed O’Dell on how much the legislation could cost the Park Service, which is already struggling to pay down a nearly \$11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog.”

CHERRY BLOSSOMS CLOSE TO PEAK BLOOM. In its “Capital Weather Gang” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Fritz, 8.98M) reports that the cherry blossom trees in DC “reached the peduncle-elongation stage on Thursday,” the NPS said. According to the article, “that means we’re just days away from peak bloom.” However, “cold weather” over the weekend will “at least delay peak bloom.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (3/18, 9.42M), [ABC News](#) (3/20, 4M), [USA Today](#) (3/18, Baskas, 5.45M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/19, Smith, 8.98M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/18, Thomson, 8.98M).

FAA Reminds Cherry Blossom Festival Attendees To Leave Drones At Home. The [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Halsey III, 8.98M) reports in its “Dr. Gridlock” blog the Federal Aviation Administration issued a news release

Friday to remind attendees that the “cherry blossom festival is a no-drone zone.” The reason is that the area is “within a 15-mile radius of Reagan National Airport,” and the District of Columbia’s airspace “is the most restricted flight zone in the country.” [WTOP-FM Washington](#) (3/19, Keyes, 255K) reports the FAA issued a video in which it “warned people to leave their drones at home.” [DCist](#) (3/19, Sturdivant, 39K) also reports the warning.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT DISMANTLES RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE.

[National Parks Traveler](#) (3/20, 989) reports that Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga, “acting in the wake of a tide of sexual harassment complaints, has dismantled the River District Office where the grievances arose.” Uberuaga, “in an email to all his employees, wrote that he takes ‘full responsibility for the situation the park finds itself in and I acknowledge and accept that over time, a culture was tolerated that allowed sexual harassment and created a hostile work environment.’” The article notes that “that email, sent Wednesday, came a day after National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis sent an email to all Park Service employees stating that ‘no employee has the right or the power by nature of their position to inflict their will or to subject co-workers, regardless of their status, to abuse.’”

Additional coverage of the complaints of sexual harassment was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, 518K).

FIRED PARK POLICE CHIEF RETURNING TO FORMER POSITION. [WAMU-FM Washington](#) (3/20, 30K) reports that “a U.S. Park Police chief who was fired in 2004 after complaining publicly that her department was understaffed and underfunded is officially returning to her former position Monday.” Teresa Chambers was “suspended in December 2003 and fired the following July.” The Interior Department said “it was due to insubordination and failure to follow the chain of command.” According to the article, “earlier this month, a federal board ordered that Chambers be reinstated, saying she’s entitled to back pay, interest, and other benefits.”

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR CARLSBAD CAVERNS ELEVATOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (3/19, 1.99M) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park has “awarded a contract for overdue repair work to its elevators.” Park officials announced last Friday that “the contract, worth more than \$235,000, will go to a company based in Illinois.” Supplied Industrial Solutions will “start the work April 11 with a deadline of Memorial Day weekend, one of the park’s busiest.”

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES PUBLIC LANDS PARTNER AWARD. The [Sevier \(TN\) News Messenger](#) (3/18) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Great Smoky Mountains Association were “jointly awarded the Public Lands Partner Award, a prestigious national award, during the recent Public Lands Alliance annual convention and trade show in Spokane, WA.” Park Superintendent Cassius Cash and GSMA Executive Director Laurel Rematore were “awarded the Public Lands Partner Award, which recognizes an exemplary partnership for its stunning achievement to protect and preserve our country’s public lands and enhance the experiences of visitors and users.” According to the article, “the 65-year old partnership was singled out for a variety of successful partnership efforts, including unprecedented quantity and quality of visitor services at America’s most-visited national park.”

BIOLOGISTS DISCOVER NEW MULE DEER MIGRATION ROUTE. The [AP](#) (3/20, 285K) reports that “biologists say they are surprised after finding a new mule deer migration route leading to summer range in Grand Teton National Park that passes over the Teton Range.” According to the article, “the rough, rocky 45-mile route took a doe that was being tracked from Colter Bay summer grounds north to a Snake River crossing above Jackson Lake and then west across the northern Tetons near Mount Berry.” The article says that “the deer ended up wintering not far from the Teton River southeast of Ashton, Idaho, and researchers want to know if more deer are using that route.”

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER REPAIR WORK. The [AP](#) (3/18, 285K) reports that Grand Teton National Park is “recruiting volunteers to help with construction and repairs over the summer.” The new Grand Teton Hammer Corps program is “looking for volunteers to help a few days to several weeks.” According to park officials, “the corps formalizes volunteer programs that have been going on for years.”

HENRICO COUNTY SUBDIVISION LOCATED ON CONFEDERATE FORTS. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/20, Childers, 337K) reported the Battlefield Park Farms subdivision in Henrico County is located near Fort Harrison, the largest Confederate fort responsible for protecting the city. According to the Times-Dispatch, “the remains of another fort, Fort Hoke, lie along the neighborhood’s western boundary.” One battle in Sept. 1864 “went right through the East and West Chaffin road areas,” according to Robert E. L. Krick, historian for the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Sandra Seelmann, a real estate agent with Varina & Seelmann, said, “You’re literally surrounded by history in Battlefield Park Farms.” Elaine Eberly, a real estate agent with Billy

Jacobs & Co., added, "The National Park Service owns a great deal of land around the subdivision" which limits the amount of room for development.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BATTLE OVER GRAZING AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed over cattle grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by [National Parks Traveler](#) (3/20, 989).

FRIENDSHIP URN RECALLS GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND CUBA. The [Washington Post](#) (3/18, Montgomery, 8.98M) reported that the last time a sitting president visited Cuba was in January 1928, when President Calvin Coolidge was invited to give the opening address at the Pan-American Conference in Havana. Coolidge was met by Cuban President Gerardo Machado and "thousands of people cheered Coolidge's motorcade as it progressed slowly through Old Havana to the presidential palace." According to the National Park Service, Machado gave Coolidge the Cuban Friendship Urn to celebrate his visit. The urn was sculpted from a piece from a broken marble column from a monument to sailors killed on the USS Maine in 1898. The urn was "erected in a rose garden in West Potomac Park." It was later removed to accommodate highway construction, and forgotten. The urn was later found by NPS employees in 1996. It was then restored and rededicated in its current location near the Jefferson Memorial in 1998.

US Geological Survey:

SEISMOLOGIST LUCY JONES RETIRING FROM USGS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 1.99M) reports that "seismologist Lucy Jones, the face of earthquake science and safety in Southern California for many years, is retiring from the U.S. Geological Survey." Jones said "in a Twitter posting Friday that she's leaving federal service but will keep her appointment at the California Institute of Technology, where she is a research associate."

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (3/18, 853K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, 442K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/18, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/18, 285K), [Maine News Online](#) (3/19), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (3/18, 75K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/18, 6.31M).

STUDY: 70% OF COASTAL NORTHEAST COULD ADAPT TO RISING SEAS. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 195K) reports that "a new study published Monday suggests that up to 70 percent of the coast from Virginia to the Canadian border is actually more likely to shift and change rather than drown" from a rise in the sea level. According to the article, "barrier islands will migrate landward, get carved into dunes or split into inlets, the study says," and "low-lying forests will evolve into salt marshes, and salt marshes will build up and, in some cases, even expand." The new study led by the USGS "offers a more complex model that incorporates the coast's capacity for dynamic change depending on its particular ecosystem — beach, marsh, lagoon, barrier island, forest or developed land."

Top National News:

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTESTERS ARRESTED AHEAD OF OBAMA'S ARRIVAL IN CUBA. Coverage of the President's visit to Cuba, which included reports on all three network newscasts, is mostly favorable toward the White House. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/20, lead story, 2:50, Miller, 5.08M), for example, described Obama in its lead story as stepping "off Air Force One and into the history books," while the [AP](#) (3/20, Pace, Weissenstein) referred to the trip as "a crowning moment." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, DeYoung, Miroff, Eilperin, 8.98M) calls it an "affirmation" of Obama's "foreign policy vision," [Politico](#) (3/20, Dovey, 1.07M) "a metaphor for his foreign policy and a potential glimpse into his post-presidency," and [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) sees it as another example "of what might be called the Obama Doctrine: That engaging with isolated authoritarian regimes can bring about greater prosperity, peace, democracy and human rights." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 12, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), meanwhile, reported Obama's visit "has deep meaning to many ordinary Cubans who until now could only dream of the historic changes unfolding before them," while the [AP](#) (3/20, Weissenstein) highlights the fact that for "hundreds of thousands of black Cubans...Obama isn't just the first US leader to visit their country in nearly nine decades," but rather "a black man whose rise to the world's most powerful job is a source of pride and inspiration."

Nearly all reports, however, include accounts of the continuing political repression in Cuba, and allude to the debate in the US over whether the détente with the Castro regime will or will not lead to political and economic liberalization. One of the toughest assessments of Obama's approach to Cuba came from [Voice of America](#) (3/20, Bowman, 60K), which reported that "supporters and critics of...Obama's history-making trip to Cuba...agree on one thing: there has been little, if any, progress on basic liberties and human rights on the island

since Washington and Havana restored full diplomatic ties." Even at the height of the US political season, however, the coverage casts the debate at home as relatively tame. As the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) concludes in its story on Obama's arrival, headlined "From Cold War To Warm Welcome," the trip "is largely evidence that US-Cuba policy" has "lost its potency as a political issue."

Along similar lines, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/20, LaFranchi, 442K) said that Obama's Cuba policies, initially "labeled bold and provocative," are "evolving into one of Obama's more bipartisan foreign-policy initiatives." Reporting from Miami, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Marte, 8.98M) highlights the support for Obama's course among younger Cuban Americans. Nonetheless, "more than 200 protesters of all ages gathered in the core of Little Havana, Southwest Eighth Street and 13th Avenue" yesterday, the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Madan, 803K) reports, to rally against Obama's policies.

A number of media reports also note that shortly before the President's arrival in Cuba, and as they have for the last 46 Sundays, the dissident Ladies in White were arrested by police after marching in Havana to demand respect for human rights and the release of all political prisoners. [AFP](#) (3/20) reports that "the arrests are an almost weekly feature and the protesters" were "quickly released," but "the incident was embarrassing ahead of Obama's landmark visit." According to the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Cave, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), yesterday's protest "was widely expected to be a test of Cuba's tolerance for dissent during Mr. Obama's trip," and the arrests "confirmed that the government was maintaining and intensifying its repressive tactics ahead of the visit." Berta Soler, "the head of the Ladies in White, is one of a dozen dissidents invited to meet with Mr. Obama on Tuesday at the United States Embassy," but "other dissidents said...that it was not clear if she would attend because of her opposition to the American president's policy of engagement."

In fact, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, DeYoung, Miroff, Eilperin, 8.98M) reports, "as the Ladies in White began their ill-fated march" yesterday, "several held a banner that read 'Obama: Traveling to Cuba Isn't Fun. No more human rights violations.'" As the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) indicates, Obama "told reporters last month that it would be 'fun' to visit Cuba." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Gomez, 5.45M) notes that Soler told reporters before her arrest, "For us, it's very important that we do this so President Obama knows that there are women here fighting for the liberty of political prisoners. ... And he needs to know that we are here being repressed simply for exercising our right to express ourselves and manifest in a non-violent way."

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported after his arrival, Obama "visited old Havana," where he thanked Cuba's Cardinal Ortega for assisting Pope Francis in helping to broker secret talks between Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro. In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (3/20, lead story, 5:40, Muir, 5.84M) noted Obama will meet with Castro privately during the trip, but will first speak directly to the Cuban people in a televised speech. Cuban citizens will reportedly be watching closely to see if Obama delivers a tough stance against the island's human rights issues. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Cave, Robles, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that while "security and control are mainstays of every country Mr. Obama visits," Cuba "has gone above and beyond to prevent embarrassing surprises." In fact, "beyond Mr. Obama's speech on Tuesday, which will be broadcast on national television, it is not even clear how much Cubans will get to see or hear."

The [AP](#) (3/20, Pace, Weissenstein) indicates that Cubans stayed "home in order to avoid extensive closures of main boulevards," and that the Cuban government "didn't appear to be calling out crowds of supporters to welcome Obama, as it has with other visiting dignitaries." [Reuters](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Trotta, Mason, Daniel, 518K) does indicate, however, that there are welcome signs with pictures of Obama and Castro in the area Obama toured last night, and [Politico](#) (3/20, Amsdorf, 1.07M) says that despite the "drizzle that became a heavy rain," Cubans did turn out to see Obama, "standing by the side of the road as the motorcade passed or cheering as they lined the square outside the cathedral, where the president briefly put down his umbrella to shake some hands in the crowd."

[The Hill](#) (3/20, Hellmann, 862K), meanwhile, reports that "Cubans have been preparing for the Obama visit, with plainclothes officers reportedly blanketing the capital of Havana and public works crews laying down asphalt in pothole-laden streets." As the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Parsons, Wilkinson, 4.1M) puts it, the Castro regime "is eager to welcome Obama, but also determined to reassert its own socialist values that it insists will not be bent to US will."

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, Whitefield, 803K) notes that "Obama and the first family were greeted at the airport by Cuban delegates bearing flowers." But Raul Castro "was one prominent no-show on the tarmac." On its website, [The Hill](#) (3/20, Hellmann, 862K) noted that taking to Twitter after Obama's arrival in Cuba, Donald Trump wrote, "Wow, President Obama just landed in Cuba, a big deal, and Raul Castro wasn't even there to greet him. He

greeted Pope and others. No respect." Under the headline "In Cuba, Raúl Castro Proves A Pragmatic Communist," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Vyas, Colombia, Muñoz, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) credits the Cuban leader's pragmatism with making improved ties with the US a possibility.

Highlighting the historic nature of the trip, [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) notes Obama arrived in "the same airport the CIA once bombed in the 1960s, and whose broken-down Russian-built airplanes and colorful, antiquated terminals give testimony to the impact of 50 years of US sanctions and diplomatic isolation." The [New York Daily News](#) (3/20, Brown, 3.7M) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, De Córdoba, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), among other news outlets, run similar accounts of Obama's arrival in Havana.

In an interview on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), Jeffrey Delaurentis, US Ambassador to Cuba, says he thinks the newly reopened embassy now stands as a "beacon of hope" and opportunity, and hopes that the new relationship between the two countries can be one "where we can have frank discussion about ideas and issues where we do not agree such as, such as human rights." Delaurentis said he would like to see Cuba move faster to improve on that front, "But I think we have to be patient." He added that he doesn't see re-establishing diplomatic relations as a reward for the country's poor human rights record, and that the US feels "strongly that advocating for and promoting US interests and values can be best achieved through engagement." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Korte, 5.45M) reports that Obama "brings to Havana a variety of diplomatic tools: 11 American CEOs eager to make deals in a newly emerging market; the possibility of further lifting of decades-old restrictions on trade and travel; and even a shared love of baseball."

More pessimistic is the assessment in the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Boyer, 285K), which sees "few expectations that the president's legacy-building visit will improve human rights for Cubans under the repressive military regime of the Castro brothers." To the Times, the "primary goal" of the trip is not political, but rather "to emphasize the economic potential of restoring ties between the US and Cuba." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes White House press secretary Josh Earnest telling reporters on Friday, "By deepening those ties and solidifying our efforts to normalize relations between our two countries, we can bring about the kind of change that we have long sought on the island nation of Cuba, and we can do it in a way that ends up being good for the American people and for the American economy."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (3/20, 5.45M) defends Obama's "much needed...adjustments" to US policies toward Cuba, and urges him to "use his time on the island to speak out on behalf of greater political and economic freedom for the Cuban people." In an accompanying op-ed, Lawrence Haas, a former Bill Clinton aide and currently a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, writes in [USA Today](#) (3/20, Haas, 5.45M) that Obama is "rewarding" the Castro's "bad behavior," and that his trip "will...reward and legitimize a brutal dictatorship" and "send an unfortunate signal to dictators and dissidents alike that the United States doesn't care as much about human rights as it proclaims."

Writing in [Politico Magazine](#) (3/20, Cruz), Sen. Ted Cruz also lambasted Obama's policies toward Cuba, terming them "appeasement of the Castro dictatorship." Their "effect will not be liberalization but rather the institutionalization of the Communist dictatorship as the profits from this détente will line the pockets not only of Fidel and Raul Castro, but also of Raul's son, Alejandro Castro Espin." Adds Cruz, "Corporate cronyism, meet communist totalitarianism."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Doming, 289K) reports that "even with little chance that Congress will end the US trade embargo on Cuba before he leaves office in January, Obama's betting that a rapprochement, symbolized by his historic visit, has now become irrevocable, no matter who succeeds him." Mary Anastasia O'Grady, in her [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, O'Grady, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) column, casts the trip as a White House PR effort to pressure Congress to end the embargo, and urges lawmakers to keep it in place until the Castros move toward political and economic liberalization.

[TIME](#) (3/20, Rhodan, 18.01M) reported on its site that "the rapprochement has only just begun, but many Republicans hope to delay or even reverse it, and there is little support in Congress for ending the Cuban embargo, which dates back to the 1960s." [NPR](#) (3/20, Horsley, 1.81M) similarly reported that "only Congress can lift the trade embargo against Cuba," though "the Administration has been chipping away at it, easing restrictions on both travel and commerce."

Obama's Cuban Mail Correspondent Extends Invitation Again. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 12, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported Obama's visit is particularly inspiring for Ileana Garza, who has written Obama five times to personally thank him for developing new relations. Garza was shocked when Obama sent her a hand-written response earlier this month. [ABC World News](#) (3/20, story 9, 1:55, Muir, 5.84M) also reported on the

correspondence between Obama and Garza, noting that Garza has again invited the president for coffee. In his letter last week, "one of the first direct letters to arrive here in decades," Obama said, "hopefully, I will have time to enjoy a cup of Cuban coffee."

Airbnb Allowed To Offer Services In Cuba. The AP (3/20, Weissenstein) reports that "online lodging service Airbnb is allowing travelers from around the world to book stays in private homes in Cuba after the San Francisco-based company received a special authorization from the Obama administration, Airbnb announced Sunday."

Cuban Migrants Drown Off Florida Coast. A later [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 3, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) segment reported that despite growing relations, many Cubans continue to make the dangerous journey to America "out of fear that the US law that for years has given Cubans special immigration status will change as relations with Cuba improve." The US Coast Guard said nine Cuban migrants died and 18 were rescued by a cruise ship on Friday 130 miles off the coast of Florida's Marco Island.

MCCONNELL RULES OUT LAME-DUCK SESSION TO CONFIRM GARLAND. In appearances on the Sunday talk shows, Senate Majority Leader McConnell ruled out the possibility that the Senate would take up Garland's nomination in a lame duck session after the election. The AP (3/20) reports McConnell "signaled no retreat or surrender from his firm stand to keep the court short-handed through at least January." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Tanfani, 4.1M) says McConnell redrew "his tough line against the Senate taking up the nomination" as "some members of his party have been suggesting that Garland should get a hearing and a vote."

However, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says McConnell, in a bid to "shut the door on a scenario that some Republicans in the Senate have said could allow them to prevent a more liberal jurist" than Garland rejected the possibility that Republicans could consider Garland's nomination after the election "even if a Democrat were elected president or Republicans lost their majority." Speaking on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), McConnell said, "The principle is the same. Whether it's before the election or after the election. The principle is the American people are choosing their next president and their next president should pick this Supreme Court nominee."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (3/20, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), McConnell said, "The way Supreme Court justices have been handled in presidential election years is very clear. It's been 80 years since a vacancy created in a presidential election year was filled. ... Joe Biden in 1992, when he was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, laid down the Biden rule. He said when the campaign is underway, no Supreme Court judge would be confirmed."

According to [Reuters](#) (3/20, Comwell), McConnell told CNN's "State of the Union," "I can't imagine that a Republican majority Congress, in a lame duck session, after the American people have spoken, would want to confirm" Garland. [Roll Call](#) (3/20, Bowman, 126K) noted that when McConnell was asked if he was "ruling it out, 100 percent," he replied, "Yes." McConnell said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace) he "can't imagine that a Republican majority in the United States Senate would want to confirm in a lame duck session a nominee opposed by the National Rifle Association, the National Federation of Independent Business that represents small businesses that have never taken a position on the Supreme Court appointment before."

[Politico](#) (3/20, Cohen, 1.07M) said McConnell "made it clear he believes the next president, and only the next president, should fill the vacancy created by the death of Antonin Scalia," saying, "We're in the process of picking a president, and that new president ought to make this appointment, which will affect the Supreme Court maybe for the next quarter of a century." The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Howell, 285K) describes McConnell's comments as a break "with members of his caucus," and notes that he argued Garland "would move the high court 'dramatically to the left' for a quarter century." McConnell told Fox, "Barack Obama calling this judge a moderate doesn't make him a moderate."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/20, Bash, 420K), McConnell said, "The right-of-center world does not want this vacancy filled by this president," adding, "even though Barack Obama calls him a moderate, he's opposed by the NRA. He's opposed by the National Federation of Independent Business, which has never taken a position on a Supreme Court nominee before."

Conservatives Divided Over Message In Nomination Fight. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Lipton, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says conservative groups are "divided over their message" in the Supreme Court nomination battle and may be "outflanked by groups on the left." The division "was on display on Sunday" as McConnell "dismissed the possibility that Republicans could consider Judge Garland in a lame duck session"

and House Speaker Ryan “posted a video on Twitter backing up Mr. McConnell.” Many conservative groups “are making the same argument,” but others “are still trying to paint Judge Garland as a reflexive liberal unworthy of a seat on the court.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, Dionne, 8.98M) column, E.J. Dionne argues Senate Republicans’ “gambit evades a full and open debate over the conservative judicial agenda,” adding it is “precisely because Garland’s record reveals him to be a devout practitioner of judicial restraint that an intellectually frank dialogue over his nomination would be so dangerous to the right.” According to Dionne, conservatives “have embraced an astonishingly aggressive approach to judging” that “allows them to reach outcomes through the courts that they cannot achieve through the democratic process.”

Senate Schedules Pro Forma Sessions To Prevent Recess Appointment. The [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Dinan, 285K) reports while the Senate is set to be on a break for the next two weeks, a “rearguard” has been left in Washington “to keep the chamber running on low gear, denying President Obama a chance to install his Supreme Court nominee.” In order to prevent the President making a recess appointment, senators “have scheduled pro forma sessions to meet a couple of times a week, with no business scheduled,” which, under Senate rules, “is enough to prevent the constitutional trigger that would let Mr. Obama deem the Senate in recess and make an appointment without them.”

Reid: McConnell Leading Republicans “Over A Cliff.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid, in an appearance on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) said McConnell is “marching these [GOP senators] over a cliff and I don’t think they’re going to go,” and predicted Republicans will lose Senate seats as a result.

McDonough: Obama Will Stand By Garland Nomination. [The Hill](#) (3/20, Savransky, 862K) reported in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog White House Chief of Staff McDonough also appeared on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/20, Wallace), where he “defended” Garland and said the President will stand by him “even if a Democratic candidate wins the White House in November.” McDonough said, “The president will stand by his nominee. This is an unbelievably qualified, extraordinarily decent man who comes to this nomination with more federal court experience than any nominee beforehand,” adding, “We will stand by him from now until he is confirmed and he is sitting on the Supreme Court.”

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/20, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), McDonough commented on the progress being made toward holding a hearing and vote for Garland, saying, “We’ve seen some good progress, some good forward momentum. We have about 12 Republican senators who have now indicated that they’ll meet with him. As you know, before we announced him, people were saying they would not even deign to meet with him. And we’re also aware that early in the week, when the Congress comes back, in fact, Senator Collins, the Republican from Maine, has agreed to meet with Judge Garland up in the Senate. So we think this is a very good progress, good momentum.”

USAToday Analysis: Garland Has Rarely Dissented On US Appeals Court. A [USA Today](#) (3/18, Wolf, 5.45M) analysis describes Garland as “the polar opposite” of Scalia who “was best known for his pugnacious style, most clearly on display in frequent, angry dissents that mocked his colleagues’ majority opinions.” In his nearly 19 years on the US court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, Garland “has penned just 16 dissents” and “far more often” works “to unite the three-judge panels that decide most cases, molding the opinions so that they emerge unanimous.” Garland’s dissents “almost always to take a more progressive view – in favor of civil rights, workers’ rights, environmental protection or freedom of the press.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) decries what it says is Garland’s deference to the NLRB, noting that he wrote the majority opinion in 22 cases dealing with appeals of NLRB decisions and in 18 of those, Garland sided with the NLRB.

BELGIAN OFFICIALS: ARRESTED PARIS MILITANT ABDESLAM WAS PLANNING MORE ATTACKS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) reported the Belgian prosecutor says Salah Abdeslam, the Paris attacker captured last week in Brussels, “relied on a large network of friends to stay hidden.” Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said Sunday that Abdeslam may have been planning further attacks while he hid in Brussels.

Reynders’ claim, according to [ABC World News](#) (3/20, story 5, 1:35, Muir, 5.84M), is “backed up by the large weapons cache found in a raid on Tuesday.” European officials warn that the threat of further attacks “is as high, or higher, than before Paris.” Abdeslam is currently fighting extradition to France, and his lawyer said Sunday

serving Medicare Advantage patients in the next year, and each year the insurance companies complain it's not enough" before the government "finally settle[s] on a new funding figure that is somewhat more to the industry's liking, and the kerfuffle [goes] away for another year" The Post questions "what would happen if we could put the same energy and resources behind a structural reform of Medicare and other entitlements."

"A New Rule Could Help Ensure That Prosecutors Share Info With The Defense." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of the US District Court for the District of Columbia adopting a new rule that would "establish court-wide standards for disclosure of information" between prosecutors and defense attorneys. While the best change would be to give defense counsels access to all investigative information, "with certain exceptions for public safety and witness protection," there seems "little chance of federal prosecutors moving to such a system anytime soon," which "makes all the more urgent the court's adoption of this modest reform."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Government By Google." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Journal, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against the FCC's proposed rule that would require television providers to create a universal cable-box adapter, arguing that it would effectively amount to federally-sponsored piracy by allowing companies like TiVo and Google to broadcast programs that providers pay to distribute. Meanwhile, 30 Members of the Congressional Black Caucus sent a letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler over concerns that the rule would push minority programming to channels with limited audiences. In addition, Google can mine viewers' habits, and a universal adapter would be hackable.

"Judge Garland's Inconsistent Deference." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) decries what it says is Supreme Court nominee Judge Merrick Garland's deference to the NLRB, noting that he wrote the majority opinion in 22 cases dealing with appeals of NLRB decisions and in 18 of those, Garland sided with the NLRB.

"The Long Reach Of Islamic State." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that ISIL's global reach has been illustrated this past week by a suicide bombing in Istanbul, the capture of Salah Abdeslam, and the FBI's announcement Thursday that a November attack at the University of California, Merced may have been the result of self-radicalization inspired by terrorist propaganda. These events give even more reason for the US to accelerate its military campaign against ISIL to prevent others from being persuaded by the group's ideology. The Journal adds that President Obama is particularly obligated in this endeavor since his decisions in Iraq and Syria allowed ISIL to build its foundation and expand.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Scary News Via A Calm Voice
[Now, The Wrecking Ball](#)
[Obama Takes 'First Step' In Cuba](#)
[Trump's Rise Unnerves German Ancestral Town](#)
['A Good Villain' Spurs Arizona's Latino Activists](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Chairman Sees Long Fight Over Trump](#)
[Paris Terror Suspect Says He Planned More Attacks](#)
[Troubled Plane Dims China's Aviation Dream](#)
[M&A Bankers Saying No To More Junk Debt](#)

New York Times:

[Obama Lands In Cuba With A Pledge To Listen To Its People](#)
[Cubans Pack The Streets For A Glimpse Of President Obama](#)
[As Coal's Future Grows Murkier, Banks Pull Financing](#)
[First Step In Conservatives' Supreme Court Fight: Agreeing On A Message](#)
[Donald Trump Courts Wary Jewish Voters](#)
[Older Voters May Be Hillary Clinton's Answer To Bernie Sanders's Youth Appeal](#)
[US Casts Wary Eye On Australian Port Leased By Chinese](#)

Washington Post:

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2745, the Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference '16 – 'preeminent annual gathering of the pro-Israel community'. Speakers today include Vice President Joe Biden, with other speakers over three days including Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu (via satellite), presidential candidates Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republicans Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham; Democratic Reps. Brad Ashford, Brendan Boyle, Ted Deutch, Eliot Engel, Gwen Graham, Alcee Hastings, Steve Israel, Ted Lieu, Nita Lowey, Grace Meng, Donald Norcross, Kathleen Rice, David Scott, Brad Sherman, and Juan Vargas; Republican Reps. Barbara Comstock, Carlos Curbelo, Mario Diaz-Balart, Dan Donovan, Kay Granger, Mike Rogers, Peter Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ed Royce, Dan Sullivan, Mimi Walters, and Lee Zeldin; and former CIA and NSA Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
www.policyconference.org <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #PC16

4:00 PM Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks at Georgetown – Fomer Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks at Georgetown University on 'The Global Future of Security', as part of the university's 'Global Future Initiatives' series, addressing how historical challenges of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and great power rivalry are increasingly intersecting with new concerns, such as environmental and cyber security, and offering suggestions as to how the U.S. and the international community should respond to these and other security challenges in the years ahead Location: Copley Formal Lounge, Georgetown University, 37th and O Sts, Washington, DC www.georgetown.edu <https://twitter.com/Georgetown>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Trump Tower in Chicago was struck by lightning during the Illinois primary, which Donald Trump went on to win. Yeah, nobody was hurt. While God was like, 'Crap, I missed.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of Trump, he recently said that if he becomes president he'll force Apple to start making its products in the United States. It's great news for anyone who wants to pay \$20,000 for an iPhone."

Jimmy Fallon: "And [Sen.] Lindsey Graham...has announced that he's supporting Ted Cruz since Jeb Bush is out of the race. And Graham had a lot of good things to say about Cruz, kind of. It explains Ted Cruz's new slogan, 'Ted Cruz, all you got left.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 28, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Mar 28, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell To Make First Official Visit To US Virgin Islands.](#)
- + [Obama Administration Decides Against Designating Gulf Of Maine Waters As A National Monument.](#)
- + [Lawmakers Hope Study Blocks Plum Island Sale.](#)
- + [BLM Announces New Appointments to Front Range Resource Advisory Council.](#)
- + [Intertribal Coalition Seeks To Establish Bears Ears National Monument.](#)
- + [Interior Shares Photo Of Alaska's Augustine Volcano Billowing Smoke.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Attends Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Secretary Jewell's Visit To Channel Islands.](#)
- + [Op-Ed: Capitalism Is Disasterous For The Colorado River.](#)
- + [Op-Ed: The GOP Should Stop Blocking Klamath River Restoration.](#)
- + [Rep. LaHood Urged To Support Land And Water Conservation Fund.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe Seeks Federal Recognition.](#)
- + [Choctaw Foster Case Puts Spotlight On Indian Child Welfare Act.](#)
- + [Bison To Be Relocated To Montana Indian Reservation.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Interior Approves \\$1.4M In Grants For NMI.](#)
- + [Ribbon-cutting Ceremony Held For Guam Environmental Public Health Laboratory.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Patterson Lake Residents Discuss Concerns Of Permit Fee Increases With BOR.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Federal Study On Western Water Supplies.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: California Dams Release Water After Rains.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Gateway West Project Proposal Altered To Cross More Of Morley Nelson Snake River Birds Of Prey National Conservation Area.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: BOEM Approves Virginia Offshore Wind Test Project.](#)
- + [Otto: ECPSP "Doesn't Make Sense."](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Interior To Hold Six Public Meetings On Coal Leasing Moratorium.](#)
- + [Oil, Gas Leases Pause Over Sage Grouse Protection.](#)
- + [Colorado Governor: Addressing Contamination From Inactive Mines Is Now A Priority.](#)
- + [Southern Ute Indian Tribe Looks To Explore Shale Natural Gas Reserves.](#)

- + Oklahoma Rise In Earthquakes Attributed On Injection Wells.
- + Additional Coverage: Interior Appeals On New Fracking Rule.
- + NYTimes: GOP "Would Be Foolish To Ignore" Market Hostility To Coal.
- + Energy Attorney: American People Will Be The Losers From Coal Regulations.
- + Wirth: Leaders Should Embrace Responsibility To Protect The Planet.
- + Columnist Defends Self-Bonding As Fully Collateralized.
- + County Commissioner, State Rep.: EPA Methane Pollution Rules "Should Go Further."
- + Opinion: Cutting Methane Emissions Can Be Profitable.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + BOEM To Hold Oil, Gas Lease Hearings In Alaska.
- + BSEE Testing Arctic Oil Spill Technology At ICEX.
- + New Research Investigates What Happens To Oil Spilled On An Arctic Beach.
- + Additional Coverage: Environmentalists Protest Drilling Lease Auction In Gulf Of Mexico.
- + Commentary Praises Administration's Retreat On Atlantic Drilling Leases.
- + LATimes: Offshore Arctic Drilling Is "Still Far Too Risky."

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM Gets Extension For Southwest Utah Land Management Plan.
- + Court Allows Texas General Land Office To Intervene In Red River Case.
- + BLM Research Center Celebrates 50 Years Of Operation.
- + Mining Group Fights Nevada Land Proposal.
- + BLM Proposes To Remove 500 Wild Horses From Wyoming's Checkerboard Lands.
- + Baker Canyon Fire In Arizona Burns Nearly 8,000 Acres.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Hawaiian Bill To Ban Ivory Sales Sparks Controversy.
- + Threats Against Police Continue In Case Of Oregon Standoff.
- + Rep. Gosar Questions Wildlife Officials On Lake Havasu Closures.
- + FWS Reviewing Status Of Yellow Cedar.
- + Work Continues On West Fork River Dam Removal Despite Lawsuit.
- + Pacific Legal Foundation: Downlisting Manatees To "Threatened" Follows The Law.
- + Wyoming Wolves Kill 19 Elk In Suspected "Surplus Killing".
- + African Lions Receive Protections Under Endangered Species Act.
- + Additional Coverage: Malheur Occupation Costs FWS Over \$6M.
- + Editorial: Plant Milkweed To Help Monarch Butterflies.

National Park Service:

- + Continuing Coverage Of NPS Centennial.
- + Senators Seeks More Funding For NPS To Tackle Maintenance Backlog.
- + Sen. King Asks NPS Director Jarvis To Visit Katahdin Region.
- + Grand Canyon Dissolves Rafting Unit After Harassment Charges.
- + Cherry Blossoms Officially Reach Peak Bloom.
- + Death Valley's "Super Bloom" Attracts Visitors.
- + Reservation System For Wilderness Permits Down At Mount Rainier Park.
- + NPS Offers Plan To Address Flooding At Cape Point.
- + Washington's Olympic Peninsula Dam Removal Creates Wild River And A New Beach.
- + Fire Island Breach Provides Opportunity For Study.
- + Additional Coverage: NPS To Continue Defending Regulation Against Hovercrafts.
- + Op-Ed: Unpeopled Places Are Actually Well-Known.

US Geological Survey:

- + Upcoming USGS Report Concludes Dallas-Fort Worth Earthquake Risk Higher Than Ever Before.
- + Volcano On Alaska's Aleutian Islands Erupts.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Kery: GOP Reaction To Brussels Attacks An "Embarrassment."

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times](#).
- + [Washington Post](#).
- + [Wall Street Journal](#).

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO MAKE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO US VIRGIN ISLANDS. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/27) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "make her first official visit to the U.S. Virgin Islands on March 30-31." Joined by Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina, Jewell will meet with Gov. Kenneth Mapp, "deliver keynote remarks at the 99th Transfer Day Ceremony and join the Executive Committee of the USVI Climate Change Council to discuss how the administration is working with island communities to prepare and adapt to the impacts of climate change." Jewell will also visit the Virgin Islands National Park in St. John "to make an announcement about the president's Every Kid in a Park initiative with local fourth graders from the Julius E. Sprauve School." On March 31, Jewell will "join Island leaders and community members in St. Croix to deliver keynote remarks at the 99th Anniversary of Transfer Day — when the United States purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark — and participate in a naturalization ceremony to welcome 50 new American citizens."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION DECIDES AGAINST DESIGNATING GULF OF MAINE WATERS AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Boston Globe](#) (3/25, Abel, 1.05M) reports that "despite substantial pressure from environmental groups," Obama Administration officials last week said "the president won't declare a national monument in a distinct portion of the Gulf of Maine that features glacier-sculpted mountain ranges and billowy kelp forests." According to the article, "over the past year, environmental advocates have lobbied the administration to designate an area known as Cashes Ledge as a national monument, a decision that would have permanently banned fishing around the submerged mountain range." Fishermen have "opposed the designation and said they were relieved when they learned about the decision in meetings this week with officials with the White House Council on Environmental Quality."

LAWMAKERS HOPE STUDY BLOCKS PLUM ISLAND SALE. The [AP](#) (3/25, 1.99M) reports that "lawmakers in New York and Connecticut are renewing efforts to halt the planned sale of Plum Island." New York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, "along with Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal and others have introduced legislation that would halt the sale of the land to the highest bidder." The legislators say "it should be considered as a possible national park" and "they want federal officials to study alternatives to auctioning the property."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/25, 285K), [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (3/25), the [Greenwich \(CT\) Time](#) (3/27, 21K), the [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (3/27, 28K), the [Greenwich \(CT\) Post](#) (3/27, 43K), and the [Connecticut Mirror](#) (3/25).

BLM ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO FRONT RANGE RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (3/27, 22K) reports that the BLM announced "new appointments or reappointments of members to Colorado's citizen-based Front Range Resource Advisory Council." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "By working with federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as leaders from industry and the conservation community, the BLM's Resource Advisory Councils exemplify the Department's collaborative approach to public land issues. I want to welcome our newly appointed RAC members and salute them for their commitment to public service. Their counsel will well serve the BLM as we work to ensure the health and productivity of America's public lands."

INTERTRIBAL COALITION SEEKS TO ESTABLISH BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (3/27, 4K) reports the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition met this month at the Friends of Cedar Mesa conference in Utah to "urge President Obama to declare 1.9 million acres of public lands in southeast Utah as

the Bear's Ears National Monument." The tribes had previously tried to push legislation for a National Conservation Area, but are now petitioning for national monument designation that would have native tribe involvement in an eight-person management commission, to include "one representative from each of the five tribes, plus officials from the Forest Service, National Park Service, and BLM."

INTERIOR SHARES PHOTO OF ALASKA'S AUGUSTINE VOLCANO BILLOWING SMOKE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/25, Forgione, 4.1M) reports that the Interior Department shared a "mind-blowing photograph of Alaska's Augustine Volcano billowing smoke" taken March 27, 2006 for Throwback Thursday (#TBT). The picture became "a social media hit" and "almost 30,000 people 'liked' it by day's end."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was provided by the [Marysville \(CA\) Appeal-Democrat](#) (3/27, 68K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO CHANNEL ISLANDS. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited the Channel Islands to celebrate the recovery of the island fox was provided by the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (3/27, 148K).

OP-ED: CAPITALISM IS DISASTEROUS FOR THE COLORADO RIVER. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (3/27, Wockner, 5.45M), Fort Collins-based Save The Colorado River campaign co-founder Gary Wockner writes that the "Moonshot for Water" announced by President Obama and DoI Secretary Sally Jewell will do nothing to save America's water systems from climate change. According to Wockner, rather than further involving the private sector in rivers such as the Colorado River, the government should instead concentrate on protecting and restoring "the Colorado River ecosystem, and make sure that the river's amazing water resource is administered with equity and justice so that profiteering is minimized and the public good is maximized for all of the species – human and non-human alike – that depend on the river for survival."

The piece also appears at [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/27, 106K), [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (3/27, 385K), [KENS-TV San Antonio \(TX\)](#) San Antonio (3/28, 84K), and [KING-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (3/27, 328K).

OP-ED: THE GOP SHOULD STOP BLOCKING KLAMATH RIVER RESTORATION. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/27, 569K), Rep. Jared Huffman and Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva write that a plan to remove the four Klamath dams was jeopardized when GOP leaders refused to honor the deal after years of negotiation. However, California, Oregon and dam owner PacifiCorp have worked around the Congressional roadblock. The entities will create a nonprofit corporation to take over the four dams on the Klamath River. Under this new structure, existing federal authority will be used to decommission and remove them, creating a free-flowing river with miles of salmon habitat to replace the old dams that produced little power.

REP. LAHOOD URGED TO SUPPORT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. In a letter to the [Springfield \(IL\) State Journal-Register](#) (3/27, 134K), Eric Curtis urges Rep. Darin LaHood to recognize "the importance of LWCF" and join "other Illinois congressional representatives in supporting full funding and permanent authorization for this critical program."

Empowering Native American Communities:

PIRO-MANSO-TIWA TRIBE SEEKS FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/26, 47K) reports that "local officials last week expressed their support — and lack thereof — for the Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe's effort to gain formal federal recognition." According to the article, "two votes — one by the Las Cruces City Council and another by the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners — were characterized by contentious debate from two major factions, both of which have roots in the Tortugas Pueblo south of Las Cruces."

CHOCTAW FOSTER CASE PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. [NBC News](#) (3/27, 3.58M) reports that "a California couple's fight to reunite with a 6-year-old foster child who was taken from their home last week because she is 1/64th Choctaw Native American has cast a spotlight on the Indian Child Welfare Act." According to the article, "the law has been long hailed as a protective tool for Native American communities by some and criticized as misinterpreted and misguided by others."

BISON TO BE RELOCATED TO MONTANA INDIAN RESERVATION. The [AP](#) (3/27, Brown, Press, 1.99M)

reports that “descendants of a bison herd captured and sent to Canada more than a century ago will be relocated to a Montana American Indian reservation next month, in what tribal leaders bill as a homecoming for a species emblematic of their traditions.” According to the article, “the shipment of animals from Alberta’s Elk Island National Park to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation follows a 2014 treaty among tribes in the United States and Canada.” The article says that “the 89 plains bison, also known as buffalo, will form the nucleus of a herd that tribal leaders envision will soon roam freely across a vast landscape: the Blackfeet reservation, nearby Glacier National Park and the Badger-Two Medicine wilderness — more than 4,000 square miles combined.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR APPROVES \$1.4M IN GRANTS FOR NMI. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/27) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina “approved \$1.4 million in grant assistance for fiscal year 2016 to support initiatives of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” Kia’aina said, “I am pleased to support Gov. Ralph Torres and the people of the Northern Marianas in a variety of projects that impact quality of life issues, promote government efficiency, and improve climate change adaptation and invasive species coordination.”

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY HELD FOR GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY. The [Guam Daily Post](#) (3/27) reports on the “recently constructed” Guam Environmental Public Health Laboratory in Dededo. According to the article, “the 10,000 square foot lab was funded through a \$3 million grant from the Department of Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs.” A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on March 10 for the facility.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

PATTERSON LAKE RESIDENTS DISCUSS CONCERNS OF PERMIT FEE INCREASES WITH BOR. The [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (3/27, 1K) reports that members of the Dickinson Park Board and the BOR “addressed questions brought up by the Patterson Lake Homeowners Association, which represents 41 homeowners that reside on Bureau of Reclamation land by means of a permitting process.” The BOR announced “late last month that a new permit fee of around \$6,800 would be implemented at the beginning of 2017, a sharp increase that many affected homeowners have balked at.” According to the article, “many homeowners have expressed that this would cause them significant financial hardship, with some claiming that they would have to move.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FEDERAL STUDY ON WESTERN WATER SUPPLIES. Additional coverage of the report on Western water supplies was provided by the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (3/28, Elliott, Press, 251K) and [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (3/26, 165K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA DAMS RELEASE WATER AFTER RAINS. Additional coverage that “the El Niño-fueled storms that have swept through Northern California in recent weeks have swelled some of the state’s largest reservoirs to encouraging levels even as the state’s drought persists” was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/25, Stevens, 4.1M), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (3/27), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (3/27), the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/27, 73K), [Breitbart](#) (3/27, 2.1M), and [RT](#) (3/27, 350K).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GATEWAY WEST PROJECT PROPOSAL ALTERED TO CROSS MORE OF MORLEY NELSON SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The [AP](#) (3/27, Ridler, 285K) reports that “a proposal for two high-voltage transmission lines crossing southwestern Idaho that faced opposition from private property owners has been altered to instead cross more of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.” The draft document released by the BLM “earlier this month maps out potential options for two segments of the Gateway West project that each span more than 125 miles.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM APPROVES VIRGINIA OFFSHORE WIND TEST PROJECT. Additional coverage of the BOEM’s “consent for the first-ever wind energy research facility offshore Virginia” was provided by [UPI](#) (3/25, Graeber), [Marine Technology](#) (3/24), and [Offshore Engineer](#) (3/27).

OTTO: ECPSP “DOESN’T MAKE SENSE.” In a [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/25, 98K) op-ed, Hot Purple

Energy president Nate Otto opposed the Eagle Crest Pumped Storage Project (ECPSP), which he said is “a net energy loss,” “squanders precious water resources,” and “jeopardizes Joshua Tree National Park.” Otto wrote that the technologies ECPSP would use are being installed “on a massive scale,” without understanding “how they impact the natural environment” in a way that “doesn’t make sense.” Otto reported that the project’s transmission line is still being evaluated by the Bureau of Land Management, but said that BLM is relying on “stale, inaccurate, and insufficient data” for its impact study, which has “already been criticized” by the Department of the Interior.

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR TO HOLD SIX PUBLIC MEETINGS ON COAL LEASING MORATORIUM. [Politico](#) (3/25, Shafer, 1.07M) reports that the Interior Department last Thursday “outlined the next steps in the planned sweeping environmental review of the federal coal leasing program it announced in January.” Interior “released a formal ‘notice of intent’ to begin its so-called programmatic environmental impact statement on federal coal leasing and named six cities where public meetings on federal coal’s future will take place.” BLM Director Neil Komze said, “We have an obligation to all Americans, as well as future generations, to ensure coal resources we manage are administered in a responsible way.” According to the article, “the meetings will be in Casper, Wyo.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Salt Lake City, Utah.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Aurora \(CO\) Sentinel](#) (3/27, 64K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/27, 881K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/25, 285K), [SweetwaterNOW \(WY\)](#) (3/27), and [ENews Park Forest](#) (3/25, 2K).

OIL, GAS LEASES PAUSE OVER SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (3/26, Brown) reports that the US Interior Department will delay selling nearly 60,000 acres of oil and gas leases, “as the agency works on new policies for greater sage grouse.” The move comes after more than eight million acres were put on hold in multiple western states and, “five months after Interior Secretary Sally Jewell proclaimed the Obama administration had found a way to balance drilling and conservation.” US Bureau of Land Management Spokesman Al Nash says the agency plans to sell leases on “almost 20,100 acres during an Oct. 18 auction,” which are, “outside sage brush habitat, but had been deferred until the land management plans were completed,” adding that, “Each respective plan talks at great length about the need for us to address concerns about the habitat.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/25, Brown, 285K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/27, 22K), [US News & World Report](#) (3/25, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/25, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (3/27, 58K), the [Worcester \(MA\) Telegram & Gazette](#) (3/25, 177K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/25, 94K), the [Texarkana \(TX\) Gazette](#) (3/26, 74K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/25, 15K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (3/25, 157K), the [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (3/25, 242K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/27, 4.92M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/25, Brown, 6.31M), and [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\) Reno, NV](#) (3/27, 25K).

COLORADO GOVERNOR: ADDRESSING CONTAMINATION FROM INACTIVE MINES IS NOW A PRIORITY. The [Denver Post](#) (3/27, Finley, 881K) reports that in an interview, Colorado’s Governor John Hickenlooper said that Western governors and “chiefs of key federal agencies” have come to consensus that “tackling” the problem of “leaking inactive mines” has become a priority. Hickenlooper said he would like to call for a water summit at Four Corners, and supports turning the town of Silverton into a research hub on how to neutralize contamination from old mines.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/27, 31K).

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE LOOKS TO EXPLORE SHALE NATURAL GAS RESERVES. The [Pine River \(CO\) Times](#) (3/25, 4K) reports that the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is “expanding an Environmental Impact Statement from 2002 to cover potential drilling for natural gas in its shale reserves.” The tribe is “responsible for the supplemental EIS, according to information provided at the public meetings.” The BIA and BLM also “work on the scope and content of the analyses and preparing the decision findings.”

OKLAHOMA RISE IN EARTHQUAKES ATTRIBUTED ON INJECTION WELLS. [TIME](#) (3/27, Sanburn, 18.01M) reports that Oklahoma “has become one of the most seismic places on the planet,” experiencing nearly 6,000 earthquakes in 2015. Scientists attribute the increase to hundreds of injection wells around the state. The article includes a video on “how oil drilling causes earthquakes.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR APPEALS ON NEW FRACKING RULE. Additional coverage of Interior's appeal of "a preliminary injunction of a new fracking rule issued by a federal judge in Wyoming" was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 77K).

NYTIMES: GOP "WOULD BE FOOLISH TO IGNORE" MARKET HOSTILITY TO COAL. The [New York Times](#) (3/26, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "and other coal-state Republicans would be foolish to ignore the growing consensus on Wall Street that King Coal, for all its legendary political power, has turned into a decidedly bad investment." The Times criticizes McConnell for continuing "his campaign to block the administration's clean power rule," which is "deepening his party's sorry retreat into science denial." According to the Times, McConnell should instead be supporting the Administration's "creative adjustments" and "government programs to help the industry, miners and communities as they face a hard period of inevitable transition" rather than "clinging to King Coal's fading past."

ENERGY ATTORNEY: AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL BE THE LOSERS FROM COAL REGULATIONS. [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (3/27, 137K) op-ed, energy attorney Terry Jarrett wrote that the US Supreme Court's stay against the president's "massive" "Clean Power Plan" (CPP), was a relief for states from "the most far-reaching and intrusive regulations ever imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)." Jarrett said the Department of the Interior's recent "overhaul" of coal mining regulations will render half of coal reserves off-limits, and that the Obama Administration's proposed "Stream Protection Rule" (SPR) could eliminate "up to 280,000 jobs" in the coal sector. Jarrett concluded that if the president "continues his costly assault on coal," the American people "could be the real losers."

WIRTH: LEADERS SHOULD EMBRACE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE PLANET. In a [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/27, 73K) op-ed, former Undersecretary for Global Affairs Tim Wirth called on state and national leaders to "embrace the moral responsibility to protect the planet" and to "seize the economic opportunity presented" by doing so. Wirth criticizes the Supreme Court for curtailing the EOA's efforts to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act, and criticizes the US Forest Service officials in Colorado for delaying action to reduce coal leasing on federal lands. Wirth said Interior Secretary Sally Jewel's review of the federal coal leasing program is "an important initiative," but that it will take "years to complete" and that "there is no reason for the Forest Service to delay action."

COLUMNIST DEFENDS SELF-BONDING AS FULLY COLLATERALIZED. Writing for [Forbes](#), (3/27, Clemente, 8.72M) Jude Clemente argues that coal mining companies "have had an excellent track record of land restoration utilizing a mix of financial assurances including self-bonding, commercial surety bonds, bank guarantees and letters of credit." He defends self-bonding – which has been the recent focus of attack – as a critical tool to support the American coal industry. Clemente notes that the US federal government owns vast tracks of the coal mined today. He concludes, "there is little doubt that the inherent value of domestic coal overwhelms any questions relating to self-bonding," thus, "American taxpayers cannot have any better collateral than that."

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, STATE REP.: EPA METHANE POLLUTION RULES "SHOULD GO FURTHER." Adams County Commissioner Eva Henry and State Rep. Su Ryden (D-Aurora) write in the [Denver Business Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 41K) that they are "pleased" about recently-announced methane pollution reduction plans from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Land Management. However, the authors feel the EPA "should go further" as their proposal "only addresses new wells." The EPA and the BLM should also look more closely at Colorado's requirements for maintenance and inspection at drilling and production sites, as the proposed federal rules as not addressing "far too many tons of pollution" that could be controlled through measures such as though in Colorado.

Commentary Encourages Continued Methane Monitoring. In guest commentary for the [Denver Post](#) (3/25, Currie, 881K), Boulder resident Tyler Currie wrote that as the EPA begins developing new methane regulations, it "should consider ways to incentivize the adoption of emerging technologies that lower compliance costs." Currie says Congress could also "offer tax credits or accelerated depreciation to companies that deploy promising early-stage methane detection equipment." He urges the industry to "embrace this cause as an essential part of its mission."

OPINION: CUTTING METHANE EMISSIONS CAN BE PROFITABLE. In an [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/27, Libersky, 290K) opinion piece Jason Libersky, the CEO of Quantigy, a methane mitigation company, discusses how "almost 220,000 metric tons of methane, the primary component of natural gas" is emitted each year in oil and gas operations in the San Juan Basin. This emission represents \$21 million in natural gas that can be saved. By contrast, operations in Wyoming emit half this amount of methane given the state's "strong rules in ...

plans to show southwestern Utah officials." The BLM and Washington County have "been locked in a dispute over a land management proposal." According to the article, "the judge's allowance last week means the BLM can miss a court-ordered June 30 deadline" and "the agency now has until Dec. 31."

COURT ALLOWS TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE TO INTERVENE IN RED RIVER CASE. The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (3/27, 65K) reports that "for the second time in as many weeks, a federal district judge has granted a motion to intervene in a legal battle between Texas landowners and the Bureau of Land Management." The Texas General Land Office "filed a motion to intervene in 'Kenneth Aderholt et al. v. Bureau of Land Management et al.'" on Dec. 1 to protect the state's mineral interests on 35 acres of the 116-mile area in question on the Red River that stretches from northeast Wilbarger County near Doan's Crossing to the small community of Stanfield in the northeast corner of Clay County." Judge Reed O'Connor of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Wichita Falls "granted the GLO's motion Thursday, saying the state agency meets all of the requirements to 'intervene as of right' as well as 'permissive intervention'."

BLM RESEARCH CENTER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF OPERATION. The [Washington Times](#) (3/27, Hogen, 285K) reports US Bureau of Land Management's Dorena Genetic Resource Center will soon celebrate half a century of operation working in forest genetics and disease resistance research. The Center cultivates disease-resistant seedlings for the US Forest Service and focuses on white pine blister rust and Port-Orford-cedar root disease, two diseases that threaten forest diversity and wildlife habitat.

MINING GROUP FIGHTS NEVADA LAND PROPOSAL. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/27, 479K) reports that "a proposal to free up some federally owned lands in Northern Nevada's rural Pershing County for economic development and create wilderness areas while doing away with others is drawing opposition from one mining group that claims it would cut off access to public lands." However, "others say the Pershing County Lands Bill, now a conceptual bill draft in Congress, has been an effort for more than a decade and would tidy up checkerboard land holdings that are a throwback to the days when the railroad was built." The article notes that "the federal lands involved are administered by the Bureau of Land Management."

BLM PROPOSES TO REMOVE 500 WILD HORSES FROM WYOMING'S CHECKERBOARD LANDS. [Horsetalk \(NZL\)](#) (3/26, 1K) reports that "federal authorities propose to remove 500 wild horses from Wyoming's Checkerboard lands, so-named because of its alternating public and private land parcels." The BLM's Rock Springs Field Office "proposes to remove all the wild horses from the Checkerboard lands within and outside of the Great Divide Basin, Salt Wells Creek, and Adobe Town herd management areas (HMAs)."

BAKER CANYON FIRE IN ARIZONA BURNS NEARLY 8,000 ACRES. The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/27, 975K) reports that "a wildfire in southeast Arizona along the New Mexico border has burned close to 8,000 acres and is 70 percent contained, according to officials." The Baker Canyon Fire has been "burning since March 21 near Douglas." According to BLM spokesman Jon Cambra, "the exact cause of the blaze remains under investigation."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HAWAIIAN BILL TO BAN IVORY SALES SPARKS CONTROVERSY. The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Riker) reports lawmakers in Hawaii are considering a measure which would ban the sale of ivory in the state in response to growing concern over elephant poaching in Africa. The bill's supporters, including the Humane Society, say Hawaii is the country's third-largest market for ivory. According to the Post, opponents say the ban is too broad and could adversely affect collectors and sellers, and state Sen. Roslyn Baker said it could also criminalize art forms that have long been a part of the state's history.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, 1.25M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/27, 1.1M), the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (3/27, 76K), [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, 853K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/27, 4.92M).

THREATS AGAINST POLICE CONTINUE IN CASE OF OREGON STANDOFF. The [AP](#) (3/26) reported that according to authorities, threats against police and other officials related to the killing of Oregon wildlife refuge occupier Robert Finicum have continued to pour in since his death. "Earlier this month, authorities documented up to 80 threats against police officers and others, according to the Oregonian," the AP reported. "We're going to shoot to kill," one anonymous caller said in a call to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown. "Oregon State Police are investigating the threats," the AP said. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/27, 98K) also posts the AP's coverage to its website.

REP. GOSAR QUESTIONS WILDLIFE OFFICIALS ON LAKE HAVASU CLOSURES. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (3/27, 27K) reports that Rep. Paul Gosar is “pushing for a legislative rider that would block funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out closures at the northern end of Lake Havasu.” According to the article, “the closures have restricted recreational motorized boating in areas of the lake since last spring, and Gosar said it’s causing major inconveniences.” Last week, Gosar questioned FWS Deputy Director Jim Kurth during a House committee on Natural Resources hearing.

FWS REVIEWING STATUS OF YELLOW CEDAR. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/27, 211K) reports that the status of yellow cedar is under review by the FWS, “which is considering federal protection for the trees as either threatened or endangered.” According to the article, “a decision whether to list yellow cedar as endangered is expected next year.”

WORK CONTINUES ON WEST FORK RIVER DAM REMOVAL DESPITE LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (3/26, 285K) reports that “removal of the first of three Clarksburg Water Board dams continues despite a last-minute legal move to try to halt the project.” The FWS is “currently overseeing the removal of the West Milford, Two-Lick and Highland Dams on West Fork River.” According to the article, “farmer John Stenger filed a lawsuit against the water board Tuesday.” Stenger’s lawsuit “contends that the demolition of the dams would damage his right to access of the pools.”

PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION: DOWNLISTING MANATEES TO “THREATENED” FOLLOWS THE LAW. The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (3/25, 712K) reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to downlist manatees from endangered to threatened, and published an excerpt from an interview with the Pacific Legal Foundation’s Christina Martin, who defends the FWS proposal. In the interview, Martin said FWS scientists determined nine years ago that manatees are no longer in danger of becoming extinct, that “heavy handed” regulation can create “perverse incentives” that can harm the environment, and that reclassification follows the law on endangered species protection.

WYOMING WOLVES KILL 19 ELK IN SUSPECTED “SURPLUS KILLING”. [USA Today](#) (3/25, Bowerman, 5.45M) reports that “nineteen elk were killed by wolves earlier this week in what’s being called a ‘surplus kill,’ according to Wyoming wildlife officials.” John Lund, the Pinedale regional wildlife supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said that “wWolves killed seventeen elk calves and two adult cows near Bondurant, Wyo.” He said that “because the wolves are federally protected, Wyoming wildlife managers can not take measures on a local level to curb their populations, even if they are killing high numbers of elk.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/26, 442K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/25, 975K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/26, Yuhas, 3.71M), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/26, Dailymail.com, 4.92M).

AFRICAN LIONS RECEIVE PROTECTIONS UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The [National Geographic](#) (3/27, 30.99M) reports that “in late December last year,” the African lion received protections under the Endangered Species Act. The article explores “what an endangered listing on a U.S. document really means for an African species.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MALHEUR OCCUPATION COSTS FWS OVER \$6M. Additional coverage of the costs of the Malheur occupation was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/26, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), [The Hill](#) (3/25, Cama, 862K), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/27, 518K), [NPR](#) (3/25, 1.81M), [Reuters](#) (3/26, Dobuzinskis), [Raw Story](#) (3/26, 1.24M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (3/27, 463K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/25, Press, 4.1M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/27, 1.12M), [UPI](#) (3/25, Connolly), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/25, Dailymail.com, 4.92M), [Mashable](#) (3/25, 1.72M), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/27, 30K), [KOIN-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (3/27, 87K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (3/27, 404K).

EDITORIAL: PLANT MILKWEED TO HELP MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (3/25, Board, 2.17M) editorialized the US Fish and Wildlife Service said that despite a rebound, “monarchs are still struggling” from loss of habitat due to logging in Mexico, and pesticide use in the US. The Tribune said that the US is “pushing to replace or reintroduce milkweed” across the US in areas along the butterfly’s migration route, and gives information about the specific species of milkweed to plant for monarchs. Gardeners can also consult [www.monarchjointventure.org](#), or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “which is partnering with the National Wildlife Federation and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation” to “lead the charge in protecting monarch butterflies across the American landscape.”

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/25, 712K) reports on the “events and activities throughout 2016 to celebrate the Park Service’s centennial and its objectives: that the most wondrous and spectacular landscapes in the world’s largest democracy should be accessible to everyone, and that our indigenous plant and animal life should be provided protected free-range habitats.”

In an op-ed for the [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (3/27, 473K), Robert Manning, the Steven Rubenstein professor of environment and natural resources at the University of Vermont, writes that as the NPS “celebrates its centennial, it finds itself in a seemingly paradoxical circumstance: widely admired but increasingly uneasy about its ability to carry out its mission.” According to Manning, “employees believe deeply in the mission of the Park Service and have prepared themselves to carry out this work, but the agency lacks the resources to fully meet its mission and places too high a burden on its rangers and other staff.” He urges “ordinary citizens” to “help by celebrating the centennial with a commitment to service: by volunteering at a visitor center, monitoring sea turtle nests, rebuilding a storm-damaged trail, helping organize historical archives, donating to a park friends group and a myriad of other actions.” Manning adds that “perhaps above all, we can help by becoming informed national parks voters.”

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by [CoinNews](#) (3/25), [Stuff \(NZL\)](#) (3/27, 37K), [Education World](#) (3/27, 32K), and

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (3/27, 733).

SENATORS SEEKS MORE FUNDING FOR NPS TO TACKLE MAINTENANCE BACKLOG. [National Parks Traveler](#) (3/27, 989) reports that “a quarter of the United States Senate is calling on those who hold the purse strings to make inroads on the billions of dollars of maintenance needs spread out across the National Park System.” According to the article, “the senators – 23 Democrats, one Republican, and one Independent – sent a letter last week to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment, Interior, and Related Agencies, and Sen. Tom Udall, the subcommittee’s ranking member, to request ‘sufficient funding to allow the National Park Service to significantly address the backlog maintenance issue which is seriously impeding the visitor experience in our national parks.’”

SEN. KING ASKS NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT KATAHDIN REGION. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/25, 173K) reports that Sen. Angus King wants NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis “to hear what Katahdin region residents have to say about a proposed North Woods national monument, he said Friday.” King wrote Jarvis that “while President Barack Obama has the authority to create a monument via an executive order, Jarvis’ attention would help the federal government understand local residents’ feelings on the issue.” He wrote, “I continue to believe it is critical that the Department of the Interior focus its attention to the proposed conditions outlined in our previous letter.”

In an op-ed for the [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (3/27, 17K), Will Coggin, the research director for the Environmental Policy Alliance, writes that “Maine’s Mount Katahdin region is contemplating a new North Woods national park — and proponents are ratcheting up the pressure on social media.” Coggin warns that “the move would pry North Woods from state hands and usher in federal oversight.” Coggin laments that “as President Obama’s second term comes to an end, we can only expect to see more government land grabs — and there’s not much Mainers can do to stop it unless Congress acts to roll back his overreaching presidential powers.”

GRAND CANYON DISSOLVES RAFTING UNIT AFTER HARASSMENT CHARGES. The [AP](#) (3/25, Fonseca, Press, 1.99M) reports that “the unit of Grand Canyon National Park that ran river trips has been dismantled following a report by a federal watchdog that found a longstanding pattern of sexual harassment there.” Grand Canyon Superintendent Dave Uberuaga “notified staff earlier this month of the decision to dismantle the river district, National Park Service spokesman James Doyle said.” According to agency spokeswoman Vanessa Lacayo, “none of the six employees lost their jobs.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/27, 290K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/25, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/25, Fonseca, 285K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/25, 975K), the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (3/27, 37K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/27, 4.92M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/25, Fonseca, 6.31M), [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (3/27, 118K), and [KPNX-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (3/27, 5K).

CHERRY BLOSSOMS OFFICIALLY REACH PEAK BLOOM. In its “Capital Weather Gang” blog, the

Washington Post (3/25, Ambrose, 8.98M) reports that the NPS announced that “the cherry blossoms officially reached peak bloom early this afternoon, March 25.” The article notes that “this year’s March 25 peak bloom comes about a week ahead of the recent 30-year average of around April 1.” The event “arrives 16 days earlier than the peak blooms of the last two years, which happened on April 10 (2014 and 2015).”

Additional coverage of the cherry blossoms was provided by [Fox News](#) (3/25, 9.42M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/27, 1.1M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/25, Ambrose, 8.98M), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/27, 518K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/27, Mailonline, 4.92M), [Vox](#) (3/27, 758K), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/27, 30K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/27, 352K), [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/27, 18K), and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/27, 255K).

DEATH VALLEY’S “SUPER BLOOM” ATTRACTS VISITORS. [Fox News](#) (3/25, 9.42M) reports that “the once-in-a-decade ‘super bloom’ that has put Death Valley in the spotlight over the last month has brought a renewed sense of tourism to the region.” According to the article, “halfway through the peak time, traffic hasn’t slowed down.”

RESERVATION SYSTEM FOR WILDERNESS PERMITS DOWN AT MOUNT RAINIER PARK. The [AP](#) (3/27, 1.99M) reports that “hikers who want to camp in the wilderness at Mount Rainier National Park won’t be able to make reservations this year, after a storm damaged the park’s reservation system.” According to park officials, “wilderness permits will now be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis, including for the popular Wonderland Trail.” The park has been “working with the University of Washington to test a new online reservation system, but that system won’t be launched until March 2017.”

NPS OFFERS PLAN TO ADDRESS FLOODING AT CAPE POINT. The [Coastal Review](#) (3/28) reports that the NPS Outer Banks Group has “proposed a plan to solve the persistent drainage problem at Cape Point.” According to the article, “in its plan, a 3- to 4-foot trench would be dug to allow water to drain into the ocean, and an upstream culvert would be converted to a weir.”

WASHINGTON’S OLYMPIC PENINSULA DAM REMOVAL CREATES WILD RIVER AND A NEW BEACH. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/27, Yardley, 4.1M) reports removal of the two concrete dams that blocked the Elwha River “has released a wave of sand that has pushed the shoreline here north toward Canada.” According to Olympic National Park hydrologist Andy Ritchie, “nearly 60% of the sediment behind the dams has made its way down the river. Nearly a third of that has settled at the mouth, instantly reversing a long-standing pattern of erosion on the coastline.” Although almost 80% of the river’s course is in the park, the newly formed beach is not. Rather it is in the small coastal reservation of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, which has joined others in planning a permanent public access to the beach.

FIRE ISLAND BREACH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDY. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (3/27, Dooley, 1.23M) reported a “breach that cut through Fire Island during superstorm Sandy” located in the wilderness area of Fire Island National Seashore is now “as wide as five football fields,” is giving scientists the chance to study changes in the barrier island. The National Park Service is undertaking a study of what to do with the breach and plans to release a draft environmental report evaluating the options of either keeping the breach open, stabilize it, or close the breach.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS TO CONTINUE DEFENDING REGULATION AGAINST HOVERCRAFTS. Additional coverage that the NPS “in Alaska plans to defend its ban on hovercrafts despite a U.S. Supreme Court ruling giving a partial victory to a moose hunter who was told not to use the device in a national preserve” was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (3/25, 211K) and the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (3/27, 15K).

OP-ED: UNPEOPLED PLACES ARE ACTUALLY WELL-KNOWN. In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (3/26, Spagna, 881K) “Writers on the Range,” author Ana Maria Spagna writes that some people may want to visit certain national parks because they are “still relatively unknown.” However, visitors must remember that “these supposedly unpeopled places were actually well-known and often cared for by indigenous people.” She writes that it is better to show the wonders of national parks with people we love, rather than trying to keep them to ourselves.

US Geological Survey:

UPCOMING USGS REPORT CONCLUDES DALLAS-FORT WORTH EARTHQUAKE RISK HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE. Drawing from the Dallas Morning News, the [AP](#) (3/27) reports that a US Geological

Survey review, which “incorporates ‘induced’ earthquakes into federal seismic hazard maps” and is scheduled for release Monday, “concludes the risk of earthquakes for the Dallas-Fort Worth area is higher than it’s ever been.” The new report “estimates where, how often and how strongly earthquake ground shaking is expected to occur, according to” USGS researcher Robert Williams. Williams “says there’s no reason to panic and those scenarios are ‘unlikely but plausible.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/27, 51K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/27, 285K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/27, 1.24M), [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (3/27, 28K), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (3/27, 58K), and [KVIA-TV El Paso \(TX\)](#) El Paso, TX (3/27, 2K).

VOLCANO ON ALASKA’S ALEUTIAN ISLANDS ERUPTS. The [AP](#) (3/27, 64K) reports that the USGS announced that “a volcano on Alaska’s Aleutian Islands erupted Sunday afternoon and sent ash 20,000 feet into the air.” The USGS says the Pavlov Volcano “erupted at 4:18 p.m. local time.” The agency has “raised the volcano alert level to ‘Warning’ and the aviation warning to ‘Red.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Press, 1.99M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/28, 1.25M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (3/27, Services, 2.17M), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/28, 4.92M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, 853K), [USA Today](#) (3/27, 5.45M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/27, Press, 8.98M).

Top National News:

KERRY: GOP REACTION TO BRUSSELS ATTACKS AN “EMBARRASSMENT.” Secretary of State Kerry, appearing Sunday on CBS’ “Face the Nation,” criticized GOP reaction to last week’s terror attacks in Brussels and defended the President’s decision not to return to Washington. His remarks are generating light media attention – even as Republicans Donald Trump and Sen. Ted Cruz reiterated their calls for greater surveillance of Muslims in the US.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/27, Krasny, 289K) reports Kerry said on CBS’ [Face The Nation](#) that proposals by Republican presidential candidates to ban Muslims from the country or increase surveillance in Muslim neighborhoods after the Brussels attacks are “an embarrassment.” Said Kerry, “Everywhere I go, every leader I meet, they ask about what is happening in America. They cannot believe it. I think it is fair to say they’re shocked.” [AFP](#) (3/27) quotes Kerry as saying, “It upsets people’s sense of equilibrium about our steadiness, about our reliability, and to some degree I must say to you, some of the questions, the way they’re posed to me, it’s clear to me that what’s happening is an embarrassment to our country.”

[Slate](#) (3/27, 1.48M) reports that “although he didn’t mention anyone by name, it seemed evident Kerry was referring to the rhetoric in the GOP camp with Sen. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump calling for greater surveillance of Muslim communities.” And “as if on cue, Cruz and Trump repeated their previous talking points on the issue on Sunday, making it clear neither one of them is backing down from previous statements.”

Trump, on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/27, Karl, 6.61M), said he would “rule...out” internment camps for US Muslims, adding, “We would have to be very vigilant. We’re going to have to be very smart. We’re going to have to be very vigilant. ... And by the way, Muslims in our country have to report bad acts. Okay? When you look at what happened in Europe, in Brussels, where many, many people knew this thug from last week was living right in the midst of them, right only a few doors down from where he was living previously, they knew he was there. Nobody reported him.” [Asked](#) if Europe is safe for US travelers, Trump said, “I don’t think Europe is a safe place, no, I don’t. I think there are a lot of problems in Europe that are very, very severe.”

Trump, the [Washington Times](#) (3/27, Morton, 285K) reports, tweeted that Sunday’s bombing in Pakistan “is something he ‘alone’ can fix.” Trump [tweeted](#), “Another radical Islamic attack, this time in Pakistan, targeting Christian women & children. At least 67 dead, 400 injured. I alone can solve.” The Times notes Trump’s claim drew “some incredulous reactions.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/27, story 8, 1:55, Glor, 11.17M) reported Sen. Ted Cruz on Sunday also “doubled down on his proposals to patrol Muslim neighborhoods in the US.” Appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/27), Cruz said, “What that looks like is proactive law enforcement. What that looks like is addressing the problem and engaging the problem. Using every tool, law enforcement, national security, intelligence, using the military abroad. To defeat the enemy. You know, there was a successful program in New York City that was started under Mayor Michael Bloomberg. It did exactly this. It engaged cooperatively with the Muslim community but it

got involved to prevent radicalization, to prevent radical Islamic terror cells from performing and prevent any acts of terror before they're carried out."

Meanwhile, Gov. John Kasich, appearing on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (3/27, Todd, 5.27M), distanced himself from the calls by Trump and Cruz, saying, "I think when they see things and so it's sort of a knee-jerk. ... But let's talk practically here. In order for us to have great human intelligence...we are going to have to have intimate communication and coordination with our friends in the Muslim community. There is no question about it."

[Politico](#) (3/27, Wambrodt, 1.07M) reports Kerry also "defended" the President's decision to "stick with a trip to Latin America" after Tuesday's attacks, saying, "My response is to quote Charles Krauthammer: The president of the United States' schedule is not set by terrorists."

On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (3/27, Todd, 5.27M), Kasich said, "When you have an attack in the heart of Europe, and you have this kind of slaughter, if I were President – I'm just telling you what I would do – I wouldn't have gone to a baseball game in Cuba. I would have come home. I would have called all the world leaders. I would have gathered my intelligence and military experts. And I would have sent them to Europe to sit down to assess our vulnerabilities."

On [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/27), Sen. Ted Cruz responded to criticism from the President last week, saying, "It's rich...Obama attacking me when he just got back from going to a baseball game with the Castros, celebrating and toasting a communist dictator who tortures and murders citizens, who oppresses them and who is rabidly anti-American and spreads terrorism throughout Latin America."

Appearing on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/27, Bream), House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes said, "The President of the United States should not be hanging out in Cuba with a known financier of terrorism. What the President of the United States should be doing is calling together all our allies in a coalition of the willing including those in the Middle East that want to sit down together as leaders at a neutral location, put all the intelligence on the table so that we can find out where all the pockets of ISIS and Al Qaeda are."

Trump Says He Predicted Brussels Terror Attacks, Reiterates Criticism Of NATO. On [ABC's This Week](#) (3/27, Karl, 6.61M), Donald Trump said, "I'm the only one that predicted it. I said Brussels is a hellhole, and the 'New York Times' mocked me. ... Then all of a sudden, it comes out that the attack took place in Brussels. I understand what is going on around the world far better than these politicians do. I have friends all over the world."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (3/27, Karl, 6.61M), Donald Trump said, "I think NATO is obsolete. NATO was done at a time – you had the Soviet Union. ... I'm not saying Russia is not a threat. But we have other threats. We have the threat of terrorism. NATO doesn't discuss terrorism. NATO doesn't have the right countries in it for terrorism. What I'm saying, we pay a totally disproportionate share to NATO. If you look at the Ukraine, we're the only ones fighting. I never hear other countries mentioned. We're talking about Ukraine, get out, do this, do that. Ukraine is very far away from us. How come the countries near the Ukraine, surrounding the Ukraine, how come they're not opening up, and they're not at least protesting?" NATO "has to be readjusted to take care of terrorism or we have to set up a new coalition, a new group of countries to handle terrorism. Because terrorism is out of control."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*The State Assault On Planned Parenthood.*" A [New York Times](#) (3/28, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial criticizes efforts by state governments to cut funds for Planned Parenthood, despite warnings from the federal government that such efforts "may be illegal, because federal law entitles Medicaid beneficiaries to receive care from any qualified provider they choose." The Times says the "harm inflicted on the poorest and most vulnerable women is substantial and immediate," and the result "is reduced access to essential health care for millions of American women."

"Keeping Nuclear Weapons From Terrorists." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the recent terror attacks in Belgium and elsewhere "would have been catastrophic if the terrorists had gotten their hands on nuclear weapons or even a primitive 'dirty bomb.'" While "international efforts to prevent access to such weapons have made significant progress in recent years," the Times says "there is still a long way to go" as the President prepares to host the Nuclear Security Summit this week in Washington.

"A Modern System Of Debtor Prisons." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/28, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Justice Department "responded forcefully" to Ferguson, Missouri, which was illegally jailing residents for nonpayment of fines, and the town "agreed to a federal plan to root out racist and unconstitutional practices in its Police Department and courts." The Times says the plan "is a reminder of how far state and local courts have strayed from the law in this area, and it provides a clear route to restoring lost justice for the indigent."

WASHINGTON POST. "A Cheaper Rx." The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 8.98M) editorializes on the Department of Health and Human Services' proposed program to cut Medicare spending on prescription medications by increasing reimbursements for cheaper drugs and lowering reimbursements for expensive ones. Although the plan would likely "create winners and losers among health-care providers," the Post says it could also "level the playing field between medically equivalent but differentially priced drugs," and is worth trying.

"Time To Rewrite The Rules On Cyberattacks." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 8.98M) cites the cyberattack on a Rye, New York dam which was allegedly launched by Iranian hacker Hamid Firoozi, as evidence that "cyberattacks are proving feasible against critical civilian infrastructure such as electrical grids, power plants and dams," while "the world's major powers have managed to coalesce only around some informal and voluntary norms of behavior for cyberconflict," it may be "time to set them down more concretely and firmly rule out floods and blackouts as tools of cyberattack."

"On The Wrong Side In Maryland." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 8.98M) criticizes Democrats in the Maryland General Assembly for opposing Gov. Lary Hogan's plan for "nonpartisan redistricting reform." Although the Post says the plan "enjoys deep and wide support" across parties and demographics, Democrats oppose the plan unless a similar effort is undertaken in Virginia. The Post condemns the solution as "a cop-out" and says the refusal to entertain the proposal "is an affront to democracy that distorts and subverts the popular will."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Why Americans Hate Government." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes against the Education Department and the Council on Occupational Education for their actions which caused the 2005 bankruptcy of for-profit Decker College; the Journal also editorializes against the media for failing to give the story more coverage. The Journal portrays the regulators' actions as unpunished abuses of power and calls for new Education Secretary John King to prevent such abuses in the future.

"A Taliban Easter." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) writes, in an editorial, that Islamist strikes against Christians during religious holidays are becoming a common occurrence and warns about what those attacks will look like if the terrorists obtain WMDs.

"Bernie Sanders Gets No Respect." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial says Bernie Sanders has earned the right to continue fighting at least through the April primaries, and possibly to the Democratic convention in July, but argues the Democratic establishment has fixed the nominating process party elites, who favor Hillary Clinton.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Common Ground For Democrats

[Menus Getting A Makeover](#)

[A Deadly Strike On Easter In Pakistan](#)

[Get Set: A Virtual Reality Race Is On](#)

[Syria Cultural Icon Taken Back From Islamic State](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Google Search Technique Aided NY Dam Hacker](#)

[Terror Network's Web Sprawls](#)

[Oil Firms Slow Exploration To Weather Low-Price Era](#)

[Biden-Clinton Friction Hangs Over Campaign](#)

New York Times:

Who Will Become A Terrorist? Research Yields Few Clues
How G.O.P. Elites Lost The Party's Base To Donald Trump
Blast At A Crowded Park In Lahore, Pakistan, Kills Dozens
The Trade Deficit Isn't A Scorecard, And Cutting It Won't Make America Great Again
On CTE And Athletes, Science Remains In Its Infancy
Jim Harrison, Poet, Novelist and Essayist, Is Dead At 78
Syrian Troops Said To Recapture Historic Palmyra From ISIS

Washington Post:

Many Republicans Watch In Disgust As Race Turns Tawdry
How Clinton's Email Scandal Took Root
In Belgium, Prisons Breed Extremism Among Youths
For Migrants Stuck In Turkey, A Vanishing Dream Of Europe
Easter Revelers Slain In Pakistan

Financial Times:

Japan's Elderly Turn To Crime As Costs Rise
Tax Drive Will Hit Earnings, Says Business

Washington Times:

Testimony Of Military Weaknesses Alarming To Lawmakers
Businessman Issuing Ryan Challenge In Primary
Dreamers' High Rate To Weigh On Wider Amnesty
Big Stars, Little To Show In Fight Against Slavery
In Pennsylvania, Republicans' Key Test Is Winning The Delegation
Strong Religious Beliefs Linked To Lower Rates Of Drug Abuse

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: International Security Measures-Terror Threats; Brussels Terror Attacks-Demonstrations; Syria-Palmyra Recaptured; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Chicago Violence; Tax Scam; Ohio-Home Gas Leak; International Space Station Delivery.
CBS: Pakistan Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Demonstrations; Brussels Terror Attacks-President Obama; Brussels Terror Attacks-Security; Syria-Palmyra Recaptured; Pope Francis-Easter Message; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Candidate Terror Comments; Severe Weather; Tampa Car Thefts; University Of Vermont-Student Health Program.
NBC: Preempted by golf.

Network TV At A Glance:

Brussels Terror Attacks – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
2016 Politics – 5 minutes, 55 seconds
Pakistan Terror Attack – 4 minutes, 30 seconds
Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 00 seconds
Syria-Palmyra Recaptured – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Brussels Terror Attacks-American Deaths; Brussels Attacks-President Obama Condolences; Pakistan Terror Attack-Deaths; 2016 Politics-Democratic Results; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump.; NCAA Final Four.
CBS: Brussels Terror Attacks-Right Wing Demonstrations; Brussels Terror Attacks Demonstrations-New York Police Commissioner Comments; Pakistan Terror Attack-Deaths; International Financial Markets; NCAA Final Four.
NPR: Pakistan Terror Attack-Deaths; Palmyra Recaptured-Russian President Statements; Brussels Terror Attacks-Right Wing Demonstrations; Severe Weather; NCAA Final Four; Mexico-Drug Lord Arrested; Jazz Composer David Baker Death.
FOX: Brussels Terror Attacks-Right Wing Demonstrations; Pakistan Terror Attack-Mourning; 2016 Politics-Democratic Results; Mother Angelica Death.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Keynotes Syracuse University Toner Prize award ceremony; hosts the final White House 2016 Easter Egg Roll of his Administration themed "Let's Celebrate."

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA – Hosts the White House 2016 Easter Egg Roll themed "Let's Celebrate."

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public scheduled events.

US Senate: 11:30 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 25 Mar – 11 Apr

Other: 12:00 PM ISIS co-host 'Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium' discussion – 'Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 2015' discussion, hosted by the Institute for Science and International Security, with George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, and the Nuclear Threat Initiative. ISIS President and Founder David Albright and Research Analyst Serena Kelleher-Vergantini present highly enriched uranium and plutonium estimates of national inventories, findings, and recommendations for the upcoming 2016 Nuclear Security Summit Location: Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC isis-online.org <https://twitter.com/TheGoodISIS>

2:00 PM Assistant Secretary of State Thomas-Greenfield discusses the U.S.-Nigerian partnership at USIP – Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield speaks on 'Partnership with Nigeria: the U.S. View' – discussing the evolution of the U.S.-Nigerian partnership – at U.S. Institute of Peace Location: USIP, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usip.org [#USNigeria](https://twitter.com/USIP)

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "And during voting on Tuesday, Bernie Sanders tweeted a list of hotlines for his supporters to call if they had questions or issues while voting. While, if Bernie needs help, he just presses his Life Alert button."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, I read about a parrot that actually hangs out at Bernie Sanders' campaign office in Tennessee. So if you want to hear someone repeat everything that Bernie Sanders says, just wait two weeks for Hillary [Clinton] to say it."

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, there's some good news for Hillary. I read that George Clooney emailed Hillary Clinton supporters a letter endorsing her for president. Or as Hillary put it, 'That's one email I'll never delete.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 5, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 6:59 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Jewell, Jarvis To Attend Dedication Of Waco Mammoth National Monument.](#)
- + [Jewell Launches GRID Alternatives Tribal Solarthon.](#)
- + [Congress Criticized For Allowing LWCF To Lapse.](#)
- + [Reaction To Sage Grouse Decision.](#)
- + [Connor Praises Public/Private Partnerships At Antietam.](#)
- + [Jewell Does Not Have Regular Personal Aide.](#)
- + [Author Warns Shutdown Could Harm Arizona.](#)
- + [Kendall May Face "Acrimonious Confirmation Fight."](#)
- + [Growth Of New England Cottontail Noted.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [ED Gives Circle Of Nations School Grant.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [USGS, Sioux Falls Partner On Groundwater Survey.](#)
- + [Bureau Of Reclamation Grant To Provide Support For Conservation Efforts.](#)
- + [New Manager Of Bureau Of Reclamation's Snake River Office Named.](#)
- + [Tumalo Irrigation District Works With Bureau Of Reclamation On Piping Project.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Democrats On House Natural Resources Committee Seek Hearing On Clean Energy Production On Public Lands.](#)
- + [Progress On Deepwater Wind Offshore Wind Farm "A Sign Of Hope."](#)
- + [BOEM To Hold Meeting On Possible Off Shore Wind Farms.](#)
- + [Elias: Solar Facilities Cause Energy Poverty.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Interior's Leiter Explains Administration's Opposition To Cut In Soda Ash Royalty Rate.](#)
- + [BLM Issues Draft Rule On Measuring Natural Gas Produced On Federal And Tribal Lands.](#)
- + [Continental Resources Demands Friends Of The Earth Retract Claims About Its Flaring.](#)
- + [BLM Process Raises Concerns About Energy Development In South Park, Colorado.](#)
- + [Groups Want End To Fossil Fuel Extraction On Public Lands.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Taking Public Comment On Proposed Expansion Of Phoenix, Rossi Mines.](#)
- + [BLM Plans Lead To Confusion In Utah.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [USF&W Reviewing 5th Circuit's Ruling On Migratory Bird Treaty Act.](#)
- + [USF&W Says Walrus Deaths Caused By Humans.](#)
- + [Warning Issued About Algae In Deer Flat's Lake Lowell.](#)
- + [USF&W Grant To Fund Replanting With Native Species.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Jarvis To Promote Parks In Visit To Louisiana.](#)
- + [Yosemite National Park Reaches 125.](#)
- + [Radio Show Takes Up Question Of Closing Off Part Of National Park For "Paying Customers Only."](#)
- + [Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent Retires.](#)
- + [Shenandoah National Park Seeks Public Comment On Proposed Release Of Predatory Beetle.](#)
- + [NPS Seeks Public Comment On Moccasin Bend Proposals.](#)
- + [Olympic National Park Removing Boulders From River Channel.](#)
- + [National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Officials Meet In Maine To Discuss Problems With Hikers.](#)
- + [California Man Indicted On 21 Counts Of Looting Native American Artifacts From Public Lands.](#)
- + [Mississippi Dedicates Shiloh Park, Turns It Over To NPS.](#)
- + [Playwright Working On Story Of Homestead Movement.](#)
- + [NPS Says Logan Pass Closed For Winter.](#)
- + [Visitor To Grand Canyon Infected With Tick Borne Fever.](#)
- + [Former Nevada State Prison Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.](#)
- + [Shreveport's Booker T Washington High School On National Register.](#)
- + [Dearborn Neighborhood On National Register.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS, USF&W Study St. Francis River Crayfish.](#)
- + [USGS Hoped To Use Joaquin To Test Network.](#)
- + [USGS Conducting Low Flow Survey In Western States.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [US Officials Hopeful TPP Deal Is Near As Trade Talks Continue.](#)
- + [Despite Veto Threat, Senate To Take Up Defense Authorization Bill This Week.](#)
- + [Obama Honors Fallen Firefighters.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

JEWELL, JARVIS TO ATTEND DEDICATION OF WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KWTX-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, 85K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will be at the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday. They will also "meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative." The site has the "largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event" at 25. They were apparently "caught in a flash flood" about 68,000 years ago. Similar coverage appears at [KXXV-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, Garcia, 30K). The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/4, Smith, 111K) reports that in addition to Jewell and Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr., and Waco Mammoth Foundation founder Gloria Young will all be there.

KBTX-TV Waco, TX (10/2, 81K) carried an Associated Press report, which also appeared at **KXAS-TV** Dallas (10/2, 363K), the **Longview (TX) News-Journal** (10/2, 64K), **Las Vegas Sun** (10/2, 199K), **Albuquerque (NM) Journal** (10/5, 259K), **San Francisco Chronicle** (10/2, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), **Houston Chronicle** (10/2, 2.28M) and **Washington Times** (10/2, 344K).

JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARTHON. **E&E** (10/1, Brown) reports in continuing coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Thursday, at "Shinnecok Indian Nation on the eastern end of Long Island," launched the "GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solarthon," which will "provide photovoltaic cells and solar job training" to American Indian tribes in Arizona, California, New York, and South Dakota. Jewell said, "This partnership shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid."

The **Indian Country Today Media Network** (10/2, 32K) reports on Secretary Jewell's week, noting that she "managed to meet the Pope," to "pay a visit to the Shinnecock Nation," and "announced a partnership with The North Face." Regarding the Shinnecock Nation visit, it quotes Jewell saying that the Tribal Solarthon "shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid."

CONGRESS CRITICIZED FOR ALLOWING LWCF TO LAPSE. The **Houston Chronicle** (10/5, 2.28M) carried an Associated Press story about the benefits to Wyoming of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was allowed to lapse by Congress. The AP also notes that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) said that it can continue to "operate on about \$20 billion in its reserves."

Joel Connelly writes at the **Seattle Post-Intelligencer** (10/1, Connelly, 560K) lists several of the purchases made in the area by the fund and quotes a number of people praising the fund and criticizing the Congress.

The **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** (10/3, Smith, 564K) writes that "conservation, hunting and environmental groups voiced strong displeasure" with the failure to reauthorize the fund.

Ron Pitz, executive director of KNOX Inc., writes at the **Hartford (CT) Courant** (10/2, 606K), "Overnight, the nation lost funding for our parks and the future protection of our land."

David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited, at the **Denver Post** (10/4, 787K) writes that the fund's "future is now under a cloud."

REACTION TO SAGE GROUSE DECISION. **Outdoor Life Magazine** (10/5, Stemler, 41K) reports in its "Open Country" blog, on hunting "on Bureau of Land Management land in northwest Colorado to see if we could find sage grouse," describing it as "beautiful sagebrush country," that was "clearly well managed to benefit sage grouse—and the hundreds of other species that depend on sagebrush systems." The author also describes hearing Secretary Jewell speak at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge regarding the greater sage grouse and describes "seeing friends posting pictures from their own sage grouse hunts in other states" as evidence that Secretary Jewell was right in saying that conservation efforts have been successful.

Phil Rostad, a board member of the Montana Land Reliance, writes at the **Helena (MT) Independent Record** (10/2, Rostad, 39K) that "Montana's private landowners can breathe a sigh of relief" because the sage grouse is not being listed. And the reason is that "Montana stepped up to the plate and wrote a plan to manage the bird that showed the feds we could do it without them." The story quotes Secretary Jewell saying, "Montana Governor Bullock has been critical in our efforts to demonstrate that the Endangered Species Act can be a vital catalyst for conservation."

The **Gillette (WY) News Record** (10/5, Johnson, 19K) in an editorial says that the decision "not to list the greater sage grouse" is "an example of the federal government recognizing the efforts taken on the state level."

The **Bend (OR) Bulletin** (10/5, 94K) said that the decision "was a substantial victory," but also says that some other decisions "could add up to a de facto listing." The paper cites Secretary Jewell's announcement as containing "plans to establish official buffer zones around mating areas." The paper says that depending on what that means in practice, it "could be just like listing the bird as endangered."

CONNOR PRAISES PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AT ANTIETAM. The **Frederick (MD) News-Post** (10/2, Anderson, 78K) reports, "Last Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and members

of the Civil War Trust met at Antietam National Battlefield to celebrate the Trust's successful preservation of 44 acres" as well as launching "a new fundraising push to preserve another 49 acres." Connor said, "The preservation of this tract at the center of the Antietam Battlefield is just an incredible accomplishment in the history of conservation," adding, "This land will become part of an outdoor classroom. It'll teach old and young alike ... about the momentous events that occurred, and that is invaluable." He also said, "These public/private partnerships are critical to our protection efforts."

JEWELL DOES NOT HAVE REGULAR PERSONAL AIDE. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/2, 705) reports on the "body men" who work as top aides to official's in order to keep them on schedule. It reports that according to Interior Department spokeswoman Emily Beyer, Secretary Jewell "always travels with members of her U.S. Park Police security detail and usually with a communications staff member," but does not "have a dedicated personal aide who travels with her to events in town and on the road."

AUTHOR WARNS SHUTDOWN COULD HARM ARIZONA. Christopher Fox Graham writes at [Journal Arizona](#) (10/1, Graham), criticizing Congress for the possibility that the government could be "shut down" noting that such an event would close the Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle national monuments as well as Grand Canyon National Park. He reminds readers that in 2013, Secretary Jewell and then-Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer "negotiated a deal to temporarily reopen Grand Canyon National Park using state money."

KENDALL MAY FACE "ACRIMONIOUS CONFIRMATION FIGHT." [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Bogardus, Subscription Publication) reports on Mary Kendall's nomination as Interior Department inspector general, saying it "could be an acrimonious confirmation fight." A hearing has been scheduled by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for October 20.

GROWTH OF NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL NOTED. Cheryl Kimball writes in the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (10/3, Kimball, 131K) about the New England cottontail, noting its decline since the 1960s which she attributes to the reforestation of New England farmlands. The population of the rabbit "has rebounded to a noticeable degree" apparently due to work by conservationists in providing more habitat. Kimball also points out that Secretary Jewell in September "was going to be in Dover to release specimens raised in captivity on private land with the appropriate habitat."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ED GIVES CIRCLE OF NATIONS SCHOOL GRANT. The [Wahpeton \(ND\) Daily News](#) (10/2, Stanko, 9K) reports that ED is giving a \$440,000 grant to Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton, North Dakota, noting that Superintendent Leroy Chief said "the grant will go toward young peoples' education through an improved high school and college preparation program, with the exploration of future careers."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

USGS, SIOUX FALLS PARTNER ON GROUNDWATER SURVEY. [KDLT-TV Sioux Falls, SD](#) (10/4, 1K) reports in an Associated Press story that the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey this week "will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey." The AP story also appears at the [Yankton \(SD\) Press & Dakotan](#) (10/5, 25K), [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/3, 126K), and [Washington Times](#) (10/5, 344K).

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/5, 27K) reports, "Lake Havasu City has received a \$70,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to help fund a water conservation rebate program" until March 31. The money will be used to support "low flush volume (1.6 gallon or less) toilets" as well as "swimming pool covers," "hot water recirculation pumps," and "smart irrigation controllers with rain or moisture sensor."

NEW MANAGER OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S SNAKE RIVER OFFICE NAMED. The [Idaho Business Review](#) (10/2, 35K) reports, "Roland Springer will serve as the new area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's Snake River Area office," and will start October 19.

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT WORKS WITH BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ON PIPING PROJECT. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/3, Shorack, 94K) reports on a piping project being carried out by the Tumalo Irrigation District in partnership with the "Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the city of Bend and the Deschutes River Conservancy."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DEMOCRATS ON HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SEEK HEARING ON CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ON PUBLIC LANDS. [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Bush, Subscription Publication) reports that Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee "are demanding" a hearing on "clean energy production on public lands" to be held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals. It has not held a hearing on the topic since 2011. All 17 Democratic members of the committee signed a letter requesting a hearing. The letter also points out that the BLM "has approved more than 10,000 megawatts of clean energy" since the 2011 hearing.

PROGRESS ON DEEPWATER WIND OFFSHORE WIND FARM "A SIGN OF HOPE." [ClimateWire](#) (10/2, von Kaenel, Subscription Publication) reports that supporters of offshore wind energy are pointing to progress with Deepwater Wind's offshore wind farm that has begun construction of the coast of Rhode Island as "a sign of hope." Jeff Grybowski, CEO of Deepwater Wind, said, "With other states, when they see pictures of an actual vessel putting it in the water in the U.S., the light goes off – we can do this, it is possible." The story also reports there are "new collaborative efforts" launched by the federal government, adding that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "continues to auction off new leases."

BOEM To Study Effects Of Wind Farm Construction Off Rhode Island. [WRNI-FM Providence, RI](#) (10/2, Espinoza) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will carry out a study of "real-time data on sounds and seafloor vibrations, among other disturbances, caused by the wind farm's construction." Rodney Cluck, BOEM's chief of the Environmental Sciences Division, said, "When you're pounding in the monopoles that go into the ground for the wind turbines, they have to use big hammers to pound them into the ground, that creates noise," adding, "you need to know the decibel levels and you need to know that physics before you can know the impacts on a whale for example."

BOEM TO HOLD MEETING ON POSSIBLE OFF SHORE WIND FARMS. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (10/4, Bellamy, 111K) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Wednesday will hold a meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina to "discuss plans to open two areas off Brunswick and south New Hanover counties to leasing by wind energy companies."

ELIAS: SOLAR FACILITIES CAUSE ENERGY POVERTY. Columnist Thomas Elias writes for the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/2, Elias, 288K) that the expense of large solar facilities – of which several were built with federal grants but produce for private utilities like Southern California Edison – is causing an increase in California energy prices. Elias writes that "the cost of that energy comes to about \$84 per megawatt hour, compared to the average \$46 per megawatt hour wholesale cost of electricity," helping to drive "energy poverty" when the price of electricity exceed 10 percent of household income. He calls for a greater focus on rooftop solar and a move away from utility-scale projects.

The column was also carried by the [Marysville \(CA\) Appeal-Democrat](#) (10/3, Elias, 69K) and the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (10/2, Elias, 111K).

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR'S LEITER EXPLAINS ADMINISTRATION'S OPPOSITION TO CUT IN SODA ASH ROYALTY RATE. [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Quiñones, Subscription Publication) reports that the Administration is "strongly opposing" bills that would "reduce the royalty rate for mining soda ash on public lands." The bills, S. 2031 and H.R. 1992, would cut the rate from 6 percent to 2 percent. Amanda Leiter, Interior Department assistant secretary for lands and minerals management, is quoted saying the bills would lead to a "substantial loss of royalty revenue." Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) defended his bill, saying, "America's soda ash producers continue to battle unfair trade practices imposed by other nations."

BLM ISSUES DRAFT RULE ON MEASURING NATURAL GAS PRODUCED ON FEDERAL AND TRIBAL LANDS. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/2, Taylor, 705) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has released "a draft rule updating standards for how companies measure natural gas produced on federal and tribal lands," in response to "concerns raised by the Government Accountability Office and the Interior Department inspector general."

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/4, 3K) reports on the announcement, quoting BLM Director Neil Kornze saying, "It's been almost 30 years since the standards in Onshore Order 4 have been revised," adding, "The industry has taken major strides in recent decades and this update reflects those changes in addition to making our regulations more adaptable for the future."

Leland Gould, Chairman, New Mexico Oil And Gas Association, writes in the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/5, Gould, 259K), that "new Bureau of Land Management regulations are not needed." He argues that the new rules will overburden BLM employees, and may "lead to the closure of marginally economical wells and the state will lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue."

CONTINENTAL RESOURCES DEMANDS FRIENDS OF THE EARTH RETRACT CLAIMS ABOUT ITS FLARING. [Greenwire](#) (10/2, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reports that Continental Resources Inc., "is demanding" that Friends of the Earth "retract" a claim that Continental was "flaring more gas than all other companies combined." The company's counsel wrote that in the absence of an apology, it would "pursue appropriate actions against all responsible parties." The report "A Flaring Shame," was released on Wednesday, and claims that Continental flared "nearly eight times as much gas as the next highest company."

BLM PROCESS RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH PARK, COLORADO. The [Denver Post](#) (10/5, Handy, 787K) reports that South Park, Colorado is "on the radar of the Bureau of Land Management" for its potential energy development, but some worry that energy development could be "a serious economic threat," because it may spoil "one of the state's unparalleled playgrounds." The Post also notes that "Denver, Aurora and Centennial get water from South Park's rivers, streams and reservoirs." BLM spokeswoman Vanessa Lacayo said that to date, "South Park has seen minimal drilling." She added that "the BLM triggered the process without active interest in energy development" in the area. The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Handy) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the area is known for the "South Platte River and for its native elk herds." The AP story also appears at the [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, Handy, 2.28M).

GROUPS WANT END TO FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION ON PUBLIC LANDS. [Public Radio International](#) (10/4, 3K) reports, "A coalition of 400 groups...is demanding President Barack Obama end fossil fuel leasing on public lands." They also maintain that he could end the practice himself.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TAKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PHOENIX, ROSSI MINES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/1, 22K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking "public comment" on Newmont Mining Corp.'s proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project, under which it would "expand and continue to operate the mine." In other news, the BLM has also had "two public meetings this week concerning a possible expansion of the Rossi Mine."

BLM PLANS LEAD TO CONFUSION IN UTAH. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/3, 3K) reports that in response to "fear and confusion" regarding the BLM's "proposed resource management plans for the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas," the St. George Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management is "trying to clear up some of what they call big misunderstandings among county residents and officials." Field Office Manager Brian Tritle said that the environmental impact statement "and any proposed restrictions apply mostly to the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas." He also said that the plans are subject to revision.

The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/4, 46K) reports that one result of the plans may be "to reduce livestock grazing within parts of Washington County's designated conservation areas." At present the BLM "is taking public comments" on the plans.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

USF&W REVIEWING 5TH CIRCUIT'S RULING ON MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT. The [AP](#) (10/4, Schmall, 2.28M) reports that the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals has found that the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires that the killing of a bird must be "intentional" in order to be a violation of the act. The US Fish and

Wildlife Service "has maintained that no intent is required to violate the law." Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Laury Parramore said that the service and the US Justice Department are reviewing the decision. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Schmall, 6.76M), [Boston Herald](#) (10/5, Schmall, 548K), [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, Schmall, 2.28M), [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Schmall, 344K), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/5, Schmall).

USF&W SAYS WALRUS DEATHS CAUSED BY HUMANS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the US Fish and Wildlife Service says that "the death of some of the walruses at a haul-out site in northwest Alaska were caused by humans," and it "believes it has identified those responsible." The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, 6.76M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/2, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K).

WARNING ISSUED ABOUT ALGAE IN DEER FLAT'S LAKE LOWELL. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that a health warning has been issued regarding "Canyon County's Lake Lowell," which is "part of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services." The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

USF&W GRANT TO FUND REPLANTING WITH NATIVE SPECIES. The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (10/4, Turner, 10K) reports that \$297,000 grant U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Recovery Initiative is helping to fund the removal of alien species and their replacement with native species in the plantings around the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge where Manager Kathy Granillo said, "We're sure they'll be pleased with the results."

National Park Service:

JARVIS TO PROMOTE PARKS IN VISIT TO LOUISIANA. [KNOE-TV](#) Monroe, LA (10/5, 1K) reports that National Parks Service Director Jonathan Jarvis "is set to visit ULM and make appearances at several events on Tuesday, leading up to the National Parks centennial anniversary in 2016." Jarvis will "promote the importance of the park system in our country to ULM students."

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REACHES 125. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that on Thursday, about 1,500 people were in attendance at Yosemite National Park's 125th anniversary. The AP story also appears at [KHSL-TV](#) Chico, CA (10/5, 3K), the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K), [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Press, 6.76M), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/2, 1.06M).

RADIO SHOW TAKES UP QUESTION OF CLOSING OFF PART OF NATIONAL PARK FOR "PAYING CUSTOMERS ONLY." The [Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) (10/1) took up the question of whether it was "right to cordon off part of a national park for paying customers only" in the wake of a music festival on the National Mall, for which "people paid upwards of \$100."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that "Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent Vaughn Baker has retired after 42 years," and will "stay in nearby Estes Park." He was at the park for 13 years, having started at the National Park Service in 1984. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K). The [Estes Park \(CO\) News](#) (10/2) also reports the retirement.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RELEASE OF PREDATORY BEETLE. The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (10/4, 280) reports that officials at the Shenandoah National Park "are seeking public opinion on a plan to release a predatory beetle" to combat "hemlock woolly adelgid," which is "an invasive insect that has devastated hemlock forests throughout the eastern United States." The park, so far, has seen "positive effects" with "subsurface soil injections of systemic insecticides." The hope is that the beetle could be effective with much less labor. The beetle is from the same area of Japan as the adelgid, and is its "primary predator." The beetle has been released in a number of other parks including Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The [Washington Post](#) carries an Associated Press story on the beetle proposal, citing the [Northern Virginia Daily](#) (10/5, Green, 48K).

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON MOCCASIN BEND PROPOSALS. The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (10/4, Cobb, 179K) reports that the National Park Service is seeking public comment on "four proposed Moccasin Bend management concepts" through November 13.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK REMOVING BOULDERS FROM RIVER CHANNEL. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/3, 41K) reports that the National Park Service has contracted with Sealaska Constructors to remove boulders from the Elwha River channel in Olympic National Park in order to "ease fish passage."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, APPALACHIAN TRAIL OFFICIALS MEET IN MAINE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH HIKERS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that "officials with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service say they will work to address bad behavior by long-distance hikers" with respect to Baxter State Park in Maine. The officials met on Friday in Maine. The AP story also appeared at the [Denver Post](#) (10/5, 787K), [Washington Post](#) (10/3, 6.76M), [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/3, 5.59M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

CALIFORNIA MAN INDICTED ON 21 COUNTS OF LOOTING NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS FROM PUBLIC LANDS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/4, Sahagun, 4.07M) reports that Jonathan Bourne, 59, "has been indicted on 21 felony counts related to the alleged looting of Native American artifacts from tribal and public lands including Death Valley National Park." He could be imprisoned for up to 98 years on the charges.

MISSISSIPPI DEDICATES SHILOH PARK, TURNS IT OVER TO NPS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/4, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting on the dedication of Shiloh National Military Park in Corinth, Mississippi on Saturday. Mississippi dedicated the park and then "tum[ed] it over to the National Park Service." The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, 344K).

PLAYWRIGHT WORKING ON STORY OF HOMESTEAD MOVEMENT. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, Bohling, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story about the Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska, where Michael Cansfield, artist in residence, is writing a play, titled "The Awakening Land: Stories of National Expansion and the Homestead Movement." The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Bohling, 344K).

NPS SAYS LOGAN PASS CLOSED FOR WINTER. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the National Park Service announced that Sunday was "the last day to access Logan Pass by vehicle from the east side of Glacier National Park." The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

VISITOR TO GRAND CANYON INFECTED WITH TICK BORNE FEVER. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that a person who visited the North Rim of the Grand Canyon was diagnosed with "a rare tick-borne bacterial infection" according to National Park Service and Coconino County officials. They are investigating the case. The patient was successfully treated with antibiotics. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M).

FORMER NEVADA STATE PRISON LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/3, Whaley, 378K) reports that the closed Nevada State Prison "was listed Friday on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service." It opened in 1862. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/2, 179K) also reports on the listing.

SHREVEPORT'S BOOKER T WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON NATIONAL REGISTER. The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K) carries an Associated Press story reporting that Booker T. Washington High School in Shreveport, Louisiana has now been approved to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

DEARBORN NEIGHBORHOOD ON NATIONAL REGISTER. [WDIV-TV Detroit](#) (10/5, 348K) reports the Springwells Park neighborhood is "the first neighborhood in Dearborn to be included in the National Register of Historic Places."

US Geological Survey:

USGS, USF&W STUDY ST. FRANCIS RIVER CRAYFISH. The [Farmington \(MO\) Daily Journal](#) (10/3, Black, 1K) reports on the conclusion of a USGS "summer-long study of St. Francis River crayfish," citing the USGS' Ann Allert saying, "It's a very special crayfish. It's only found here in this one particular part of the world." The study was a joint effort of the USGS, US Fish and Wildlife, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The study was in response to mining in the area and was focused on the amount of metal in the crayfish.

USGS HOPED TO USE JOAQUIN TO TEST NETWORK. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/2, 1.3M) reports on the US Geological Survey's Surge, Wave and Tide Hydrodynamic Network that will "provide real-time information about water conditions" during storms. Joaquin was supposed to offer an occasion to test the system.

USGS CONDUCTING LOW FLOW SURVEY IN WESTERN STATES. The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/3, Cauvel, 31K) reports on the USGS Western U.S. Low Flow Survey, which is measuring streamflow over time, in order to "better prepare communities throughout the region for drought." The study covers California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Top National News:

US OFFICIALS HOPEFUL TPP DEAL IS NEAR AS TRADE TALKS CONTINUE. Media reports of continuing trade talks in Atlanta cast US officials as hopeful and indicate that a deal may be announced soon. The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), for example, says negotiators from the US "and 11 other Pacific Rim nations neared agreement on Sunday night on the largest regional trade accord in history, a potentially precedent-setting model for global commerce." According to the Times, announcement of a deal was delayed Sunday due to "final haggling over the arcane details of opening dairy markets," but US officials "said they were confident that a deal was imminent."

[Reuters](#) (10/5, Hughes) reports Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb too said the deal was "largely completed," and Japanese Economy Minister Akira Amari said he had called Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to inform him that a deal was within sight. The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) similarly says on its front page that US officials "said they were confident that meetings late Sunday and early Monday would produce a final agreement," and other nations "also expressed optimism that a deal would be reached." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A1, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), [Politico](#) (10/4, Palmer, 942K), and the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Boyer, 344K) also report that a deal is near.

DESPITE VETO THREAT, SENATE TO TAKE UP DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL THIS WEEK. In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (10/4, Camey, 471K) predicted a "veto showdown" between the President and Republicans over the National Defense Authorization Act, noting that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "has teed up the Senate to turn to the" measure this week "despite a looming veto threat from the White House." While White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the bill "an 'irresponsible way to fund our national defense priorities,' reiterating that 'if the president got this bill he'd veto it,'" Senate Republicans "appear poised to try to either the call the president's bluff [sic] or force him to issue his fifth veto on legislation that they argue is vital for helping troops and protecting national security."

OBAMA HONORS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS. The President addressed the 34th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD on Sunday, where he praised the "'courage, fortitude, and strength' of firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in order to save people they have never met," [USA Today](#) (10/5, Jackson, 5.23M) reports. The President offered "prayers and condolences to the families of 87 firefighters who have died in recent months," and "said the profession of firefighting holds a 'special place' in the imaginations of Americans because of the risks involved."

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (10/5, Fitch, 10K) notes that during the service, which recognized "84 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2014 and three others who died in previous years," the President told those gathered "that they were honoring 'extraordinary Americans,'" adding, "We can never repay them fully for their sacrifices."

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (10/4, Richardson, 471K) reported that the President also "called for action to prevent wildfires before they start," saying, "So far this year, nearly 50,000 wildfires have burned more than 9 million acres – an area larger than the entire state of Maryland. ... At the season's peak, 32,000 firefighters were battling blazes from California to North Carolina. Thirteen have lost their lives. And today, we honor them as well."

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/4, Parker, 834K) says that during his 12-minute address, the President "asked the nation to renew its commitment to preventing fires and making sure to supply firefighters with 'equipment and the support that they need to get the job done and to come home safe. That's what we owe every one of you.'" The Sun adds that the President "remained for more than an hour" after his speech, "greeting each of the late firefighters' families before returning to a motorcade where he was joined by Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Maryland

Democrat." The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (10/4, Reed, 59K) notes that the ceremony was attended by "scores of fire personnel from all over the country."

The [AP](#) (10/4) notes that among the firefighters honored in the ceremony were Hartford, CT firefighter Kevin Bell and New Britain, CT Deputy Chief David Fiori. Bell "was killed in a house blaze and Fiori suffered a heart attack while on duty" last year. [WFSB-TV New Haven, CT](#) (10/4, Jain, Polansky, 269K) also reported on the two fallen Connecticut firefighters on its website.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*The Biggest Questions Awaiting The Supreme Court.*" A [New York Times](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says the Supreme Court's new term "will jump right back into high-profile constitutional battles," and says its decisions last term "showed a court willing to take into account the effects of the law on individual lives. This term, the justices have many opportunities to show that same type of awareness."

"Rein In Online Fantasy Sports Gambling." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says online sport gambling sites "have grown rapidly" because the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, "which prevented payment processors from working with gambling websites, included an exemption for fantasy sports." The Times says "giving people more ways to bet on the outcomes of sports is sure to threaten the integrity of sports and create more gambling addicts, especially among young people who are already more likely to engage in risky behaviors."

WASHINGTON POST. "*The Price We Pay.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M) lists the names of those killed in mass shootings in recent years.

"Jeb Bush's Energy Plan." The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M) says in an editorial that Jeb Bush's energy plan is "breathtakingly irresponsible" as it is "silent" on climate change. The Post approves of his call to push back "against the excesses of environmental activists," lift the crude export ban, and approve Keystone XL, but condemns his call for repealing the Administration's greenhouse gas regulations.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*Trust Busting Higher Ed.*" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) hails an effort by Sens. Marco Rubio and Michael Bennett for pushing legislation that would limit the ability of existing colleges and universities, operating under various agencies chartered by the Education Department, to block the emergence of alternative low-cost competitors by denying them access to federal aid.

"The Taliban And The Hospital." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues that while the bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz was a mistake, the Taliban, which has been trying to take Kunduz by force, is responsible for the lives lost.

"Supreme Court Plaintiff's Play." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) highlights a challenge to arbitration agreements in class-action suits that the Supreme Court will hear. The Journal argues that if the justices weaken the 1925 Federal Arbitration Act, it would be a payday for trial lawyers.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[US Is Accused Of War Crime](#)

[State's Job Outlook: Sunny](#)

[HP Still A Tough Debate For Fiorina](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Activist Firm Trian Makes A Big Bet On GE](#)

[VW Emissions Probe Zeroes In On Two Engineers](#)

[Caution Hampered Pentagon's Syria Plans](#)

[Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal Within Reach](#)

New York Times:

US Aims To Put More Pressure On ISIS In Syria
Taliban's New Leader Strengthens His Hold With Intrigue And Battlefield Victory
Doctors Without Borders Says It Is Leaving Kunduz After Strike On Hospital
Valeant's Drug Price Strategy Enriches It, But Infuriates Patients And Lawmakers
A Conundrum For Jeb Bush: How To Use George W.
Campuses Debate Rising Demands For "Comfort Animals"

Washington Post:

"Till Martyrdom Do Us Part"
High Court's Divisive Docket
A Problem In Fiorina's Senate Bid: Money
Youth Sports Are Down, And Parental Pressure Is Up
US On Verge Of 12-Nation Pacific Rim Trade Pact

Financial Times:

World Bank Head Opens Case Over Capital
Nuclear Plants In 'Denial' On Hacking Risk

Washington Times:

Chaffetz To Challenge McCarthy As Speaker
Kurds Need Weapons To Pierce Stolen US Armor
Clinton Campaign Calls Bill Into Service On Trail
Political Eyes On Roberts As High Court Begins Term
US, Partners Zeroing In On Massive Asia Trade Deal
Putin's Power: Russian President Keeps Tumultuous World Guessing

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather-Storm; Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Oregon Shooting-Student Hero; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; 2016 Politics-Campaign; Pope Francis-Kim Davis Meeting; NASA-Space Probe; University Of Louisville-Scandal.
CBS: Severe Weather-Storm; US Cargo Ship Stranded; Guatemala-Mudslide; French Riviera-Flooding; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden Campaign Speculation; House Speaker Vote; Oregon College Shooting; Chicago-Drug Overdose Increase; Credit Card Security Update.
NBC: Severe Weather-Storm; Severe Weather-South Carolina; Weather Forecast; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; California Shooting Plot; Oregon Shooting; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Supreme Court Docket-Abortion; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 13 minutes, 40 seconds
Oregon College Shooting – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
US Cargo Ship Stranded – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Supreme Court Docket-Obamacare; Daytona Florida-Shark Attack.
CBS: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Afghanistan Hospital Bombing-US Investigation; North Korea-US Prisoner Released; House Speaker Vote-Challenger; Asian Markets.
NPR: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Stranded; House Speaker Vote-Challenger; Guatemala-Landslide Deaths; Portugal-General Elections; Palestinian Attacks-Israel Measures.
FOX: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Stranded; North Korea-US Prisoner Released.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Unavailable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate debates U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California nominee – Senate convenes, with agenda including executive session to consider the nomination of Dale Drozd to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: No scheduled events.

Other: 11:30 AM DoD official speaks at 'Innovation and the Defense Industrial Base' Heritage Foundation event – 'Innovation and the Defense Industrial Base – A #DefenseReform Event' at Heritage Foundation, featuring Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics Principal Deputy Director of Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy Dr Jerry McGinn, followed by a panel discussion with Abundance Partners Venture Partner Stephen Rodríguez, Covington & Burling partner Peter Lichtenbaum, and Airbus Group Director of Strategy & Development Sam Zega * Marks first of a series of public events on defense reform Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage> #DefenseReform

1:30 PM DHS Secretary Johnson thanks employees for successful papal visit and U.N. General Assembly – Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and U.S. Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy 'recognize and thank the men and women from across the Department of Homeland Security for their work in the development, implementation, and execution of security plans for the visit of Pope Francis to Washington, DC, New York and Philadelphia, and the 70th United Nations General Assembly' via joint media availability Location: U.S. Secret Service, 950 H St NW, Washington, DC www.dhs.gov <https://twitter.com/DHSGov>

4:00 PM Sister seeds to lettuce grown on the International Space Station planted at the USDA People's Garden – Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden and NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman join Washington, DC, area FFA and 4-H members to plant sister seeds to lettuce grown on the International Space Station at an event in the People's Garden at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with Deputy Secretary Harden and Deputy Administrator Newman also signing a new interagency agreement expanding commitment to promoting careers in science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math to young people. After the signing, they hold a brief press availability Location: USDA People's Garden, corner of Jefferson Dr and 12th St SW, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation annual corporate citizenship conference – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation annual corporate citizenship conference 'Connect the Dots: How Businesses Solve Global Challenges Locally', with private sector leaders showcasing successful business examples to highlight 'how businesses build engagements that align local impact to global strategy'. Speakers include Soledad O'Brien (Starfish Media Group), Daymond John (FUBU), JJ Ramberg (MSNBC), Lori Hamick (Microsoft), Blair Taylor (Starbucks), Geoff Bastow (UPS), Shannon Schuyler (PwC), Patrick Gaston (Western Union Foundation), Richard Leach (World Food Program USA), Hugh Welsh (DSM North America), Hugh Evans (Global Poverty Project), Connie Yowell (MacArthur Foundation), Elliot Kotek (Not Impossible), and Suzanne Clark (USCC) Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://bclc.uschamber.com/> <https://twitter.com/usccfoundation>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that Donald Trump's hotel chain may have experienced a data breach that may have exposed people's debit and credit card information to hackers for more than a year. When asked how he planned on fixing the situation, Trump was like, 'I'm going to build a huge firewall.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "More of Hillary Clinton's emails were just released, and one shows that she had made a list of talking points for a trip to LA in case she ran into Ellen DeGeneres. Which is ironic, because Bill [Clinton] does the same thing in case he runs into Hillary."

Stephen Colbert: "It's a bit of a drizzly day here in New York, where the United Nations General Assembly is wrapping up their annual session and free parking festival."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, February 25, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

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DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Grilled On Coal Leasing Moratorium.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell, Sen. Murkowski Spar Over King Cove Road.](#)
- + [Oregon Refuge Occupiers Plead Not Guilty As More Indictments Likely.](#)
- + [Vice President Biden To Visit Mexico City For US-Mexico Economic Summit.](#)
- + [House Panel Scrutinizes "Mitigation" Policy.](#)
- + [LWCF, Ivory Amendments Fail To Get Into Sportsmen Bill Vote.](#)
- + [Committee Leaders Point To Common Goals, But Disagree On Approach.](#)
- + [Conservation Group Scores Lawmakers On Environmental Policies.](#)
- + [Wildland Fire Study Highlights Science-Based Data Collection Benefits.](#)
- + [Lawyer At Forefront Of Conservation Movement Passes Away.](#)
- + [Additional Converge: Three New National Monuments Designated In California.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Federal Land Management An Issue In Presidential Race.](#)
- + [EPA Accused Of Avoiding Responsibility For Gold King Mine Disaster.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Judge Approves Settlement In Underfunded Federal Contract Lawsuit.](#)
- + [House Passes Tribal Trust Asset Reform Bill.](#)
- + [BIA's Decision Not To Designate Tribal Leader Upheld.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Continuing Coverage Of Conference On Self-determination.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [BOR Official In FBI Corruption Investigation Tied To Las Vegas Firm He Supervised.](#)
- + [Sen. Feinstein Working To Clear Path For Drought Bill.](#)
- + [House Hearing On California Water Marked By Tension.](#)
- + [Some California Farmers To Receive No Water Because Of EPA Efforts To Save Fish.](#)
- + [Rep. Knight Introduces Clean Water Bill.](#)
- + [Hungry Horse Dam Project Could Cost \\$200 Million.](#)
- + [Workers Fixing Leak On Grand Coulee Dam.](#)
- + [Public Meetings To Be Held On Glen Canyon Dam.](#)
- + [Mexico Pays Down Rio Grande Water Debt.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Deepwater Wind Eyes Brooklyn Site For Offshore Wind Base.](#)
- + [Permit Pulled For Palen Solar Project.](#)
- + [Nevada Wind Energy Project Faces Resistance.](#)

- + [Changes To DRECP Suggested.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Appeals Court Declines To Fast-track Fracking Appeal.](#)
- + [Concerns Raised About Reclamation By Mining Companies.](#)
- + [Alaska Governor Encouraging ANWR Development.](#)
- + [Murray Energy Testifies Before House On Stream Protection Rule.](#)
- + [McCarthy: Energy Industry Emits More Methane Than Previously Thought.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Public Input On Capturing Natural Gas Waste.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Climate Activist Bids In Lease Auction.](#)
- + [Tate: China, Not Obama To Blame For US Coal Collapse.](#)
- + [Americans For Prosperity Directors: Right-To-Work Laws Would Revive Coal States.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Rally Held Against Offshore Drilling In New Jersey.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Study Shows Impact Of BP Oil Spill On Deepwater Shipwrecks.](#)

AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM, County Officials Meet To Discuss Control Of Wild Burro Herds.](#)
- + [Expansion Of Utah Military Testing Range Criticized By Environmentalists.](#)
- + [Utah Congressman Takes Aim At Federal Law Enforcement.](#)
- + [Richfield Reaper: Public Land Use Needs To Be Preserved.](#)
- + [Writer Claims “BLM Policing, Politics Are Overzealous.”](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Protect Wild Horses.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS Director Dan Ashe Interviewed.](#)
- + [28 Cities Awarded FWS Grant.](#)
- + [Project Announced To Raise Elevation Of Sachuest Point Marsh.](#)
- + [New Headquarters Under Construction At Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage: Officials Investigating Death Of 13 Bald Eagles On A Maryland Farm.](#)
- + [Marine Mammal Biologists Visit Saint Lawrence Island.](#)
- + [New Mexico Game Board To Hear Turner Wolf Request.](#)
- + [Endangered Animals At Iowa Zoo Suffer Captivity, Poor Conditions.](#)
- + [Support Urged For Prairie Chicken Conservation Program.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Certifies 2015 Visitation Numbers At 307 Million.](#)
- + [Commemorative Stamp Honoring Founder Of A.M.E.](#)
- + [House Passes Kennesaw Mountain Park, MLK Site Expansion Bills.](#)
- + [Sen Feinstein Reintroduces Legislation That Could Expand Joshua Tree National Park.](#)
- + [Increase In Visitors Expected At Flight 93 Memorial.](#)
- + [Wyoming Senators Seek To Sell Two Park Parcels At Once.](#)
- + [NPS Seeks To Preserve Yosemite Names.](#)
- + [NPS Extends Comment Period For Grand Canyon Backcountry Management.](#)
- + [Cavems Elevator Repair Target Date Pushed To May.](#)
- + [First Yellowstone Grizzly Spotted Out Of Its Den.](#)
- + [New Play Depicts How Boston Massacre Helped Shape America.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of “National Parks Adventure”.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Death Valley’s “Super Bloom” Of Wildflowers.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Yosemite “Firefall” Falls Phenomenon.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Proposes New Dog-walking Regulations At Golden Gate National Recreation Area.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Fund Maintenance Of National Parks.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [Scientists Warn Virus Threatens Salamanders.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Republican Nevada Governor Floated As Potential Obama High Court Nominee.](#)

- + [Poll: Trump Seizes Lead In Oklahoma, Holds Nine-Point Edge.](#)
- + [Lynch: Law Prohibits Sending Gitmo Detainees To US Territory.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL GRILLED ON COAL LEASING MORATORIUM. [E&E Daily](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that "Senate Republicans and other pro-coal lawmakers aren't giving up the fight to block the Obama administration's new moratorium on leasing federal coal." Lawmakers are also pushing "the administration on mining company cleanup liabilities, rulemaking to protect waterways from coal extraction and aid for union workers." Critics of the new moratorium "grilled" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during Tuesday's Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the administration's fiscal 2017 budget. Sen. John Barrasso "questioned Jewell's business acumen as the administration considers increasing royalty rates to boost revenues from coal mining."

[ClimateWire](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that speaking with reporters after the hearing, "Jewell reiterated the important role her agency is playing in the fight against climate change." The article says that "with 11 months left before Obama leaves the White House, Jewell stressed that her agency is working hard to finalize as many regulations as possible." She said, "There is no question that the emissions of carbon from the burning of fossil fuels, or worse, the venting of methane into the atmosphere without being flared, are significant contributors to climate change. We believe that is something that we need to address, and these regulations will provide a mechanism on public lands ... to take climate and the impact of carbon emissions on climate into account."

Additional coverage of the moratorium provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/25, 77K), the [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (2/24, 167), the [Big Sky Business Journal \(MT\)](#) (2/24), [JD Supra](#) (2/24, 5K), and [KTWO-AM Casper \(WY\)](#) Casper, WY (2/24, 576).

Editorial: Federal Coal Lease Moratorium About Environment, Taxpayer Value. The [Seattle Times](#) (2/24, 1.12M) editorializes on the launch of a three-year review of the federal coal program by the Obama Administration. The Times writes that it is "not only about environmental impacts, but also getting fair value for taxpayers." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell appeared Tuesday before a U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee budget hearing to explain the path ahead. "The leasing price is put at about a \$1 per ton, with another \$1.50 for royalties," and coal buyers pay 20 to 40 times that amount, but "the expense to society for the cost of massive carbon emissions can run \$70 per ton."

SECRETARY JEWELL, SEN. MURKOWSKI SPAR OVER KING COVE ROAD. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee's chairwoman, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, on Tuesday grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "on a number of issues in – or not in – the president's budget, including the King Cove road." Murkowski asked Jewell "about a recent Army Corps of Engineers study of other transportation options from King Cove to the all-weather airport at Cold Bay." She also "asked if Jewell intended to live up to her promise to find a solution." Jewell responded: "Senator, I have no intention of leaving the people of King Cove hanging and I would be delighted to work with you on a marine-based solution that was identified in the Army Corps. report. As you and I have talked, I know it is unlikely we're going to agree on this point, I do not believe it is appropriate to run a road through this very sensitive wilderness area and wildlife refuge."

OREGON REFUGE OCCUPIERS PLEAD NOT GUILTY AS MORE INDICTMENTS LIKELY. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Johnson) reports Ammon Bundy and 15 other anti-government protesters from the armed occupation at an Oregon wildlife refuge pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges of conspiring to impede federal officers policing the compound. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Berman, Sottile, 8.98M) adds that several also “expressed concern” that they were being locked up, including Ryan Payne, who said he has been “led around in chains and shackles everywhere I go.” Meanwhile, federal agents investigating the refuge found explosives, firearms, and “significant amounts of human feces,” according to a filing last week from the US attorney for the District of Oregon. Investigators also found evidence that occupiers had cleared trenches and created a road on or near “grounds containing sensitive artifacts.”

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/24, 98K) reports that federal prosecutors said in a court filing this week that the government is likely to file a superseding indictment “that may add additional charges and defendants” early next month. It’s also possible that more indictments could emerge “based on what investigators find as they process evidence,” the filing said.

The [Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/24, Berger, 3.71M) reports that in Wednesday hearing with the occupiers, federal judge Anna Brown “urged prosecutors to file additional indictments as soon as possible.” Meanwhile, officials agreed to let attorneys of the defendants visit the refuge this week, although Brown rejected a request to allow Bundy to accompany them.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (2/24, 122K) reports the FBI said Tuesday it had finished collecting evidence at the refuge. Greg Bretzing, special agent in charge of the FBI in Oregon, said the “impacts from the armed occupation of the refuge will live on in this community for some time. Today, though, we are able to bring some sense of closure to this chapter of the story.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/24, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/24, Dubois, 285K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (2/24, 764K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (2/24, 180K), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (2/24, 103K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Weekly](#) (2/25), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/24, Levin, 3.71M), the [Raw Story](#) (2/24, 1.24M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, 442K), [TIME](#) (2/24, 18.01M), [Reuters](#) (2/25, Johnson), [Government Executive](#) (2/25, 41K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/25, Johnson, 6.31M).

FBI Completes Collection Of Evidence At Malheur. The [Greenwire](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the FBI on Tuesday “announced it has finished collecting evidence at the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and has returned control of the facility to the Fish and Wildlife Service.” However, “the headquarters will not be opened to the media or the public until the Justice Department and FWS decide it’s appropriate, the FBI said.”

Oregon Refuge Occupation Costs At Least \$3.3 Million. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (2/24, 173K) reports that “the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge cost taxpayers at least \$3.3 million to cover the massive police response, a week of shuttered schools and a long list of supplies ranging from food to flashlight batteries, according to an Oregonian/OregonLive analysis of public and tribal budgets.” The figure “doesn’t include any figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the 187,700-acre bird sanctuary seized Jan. 2 by armed militants.”

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO VISIT MEXICO CITY FOR US-MEXICO ECONOMIC SUMMIT. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that Vice President Joe Biden will “lead the U.S. delegation to an annual U.S.-Mexico economic summit in Mexico City.” Joining Biden are Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (2/24, 4M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/24, 1.99M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (2/24, 1.12M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/24, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/24, Press, 8.98M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/24, 4.92M), [El Universal \(MEX\)](#) (2/24, 67K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/24, 404K).

HOUSE PANEL SCRUTINIZES “MITIGATION” POLICY. [Politico Pro](#) (2/24) reports that the Energy and Minerals Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources will “dig in” Wednesday “on a November presidential memorandum that encourages private investment in conservation while also requiring executive agencies to ‘avoid and then minimize harmful effects’ to the environment.” The subcommittee has called Christy Goldfuss, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, to explain the justification for why the memo creates “sweeping new statutory authority through unilateral executive action.” Goldfuss will be joined by

officials from the Fish and Wildlife and Forest services.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (2/24, Bastasch, 443K).

LWCF, IVORY AMENDMENTS FAIL TO GET INTO SPORTSMEN BILL VOTE. [E&E Daily](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the Rules Committee on Tuesday “agreed to send more than a dozen proposed amendments to the House floor on a controversial package to increase access to public lands for hunters and anglers that is headed for a vote tomorrow.” The article notes that “the amendments kept alive by the committee, however, largely ignore two of Democrats’ main objections to the ‘Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act,’ or H.R. 2406.” According to the article, “the minority party pushed to use the sportsmen’s bill as a vehicle to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” They also “argued that the sportsmen’s package should not include provisions to block Fish and Wildlife Service regulations that seek to address the elephant poaching crisis by restricting the domestic trade in ivory.”

COMMITTEE LEADERS POINT TO COMMON GOALS, BUT DISAGREE ON APPROACH. [E&E Daily](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that that “one year into his post as ranking member,” Rep. Raúl Grijalva’s office “reflects the sprawling mission of the House Natural Resources Committee, helmed by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah).” Described as “polar opposites,” the article says that “the two so far have dug into their respective comers, continuing the legacy of a panel that has much to say – on everything from public lands to tribal rights – but few bipartisan victories.” According to the article, “in recent interviews, both lawmakers sounded an optimistic note about this year, pointing to wildfire spending reform and a National Park Service centennial bill as ‘doable’ goals.” However, “Bishop is setting a high bar for any legislation: It must be a new approach that moves toward his idea of reform.”

CONSERVATION GROUP SCORES LAWMAKERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES. [The Hill](#) (2/25, Henry, 862K) reports that “the League of Conservation Voters slammed the Republican-led Congress’s climate work on Wednesday, citing a ‘trend of relentless attacks on environmental protections’ during the 2015 session of Congress.” According to the article, “in the group’s annual scorecard, based on 35 House votes and 26 Senate votes in 2015, the group gave House Republicans an average score of just 3 percent, and Senate Republicans a score of 5 percent.”

The [Empire State News \(NY\)](#) (2/24, 128) reports that Marcia Bystryn, President of the New York League of Conservation Voter, said, “It was a challenging year for the environment at the federal level in 2015, yet we were pleased to see bipartisan efforts to move key priorities such as a tough ban on plastic microbeads and an extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We were glad to see a number of Republican representatives in New York bucking their party and doing what’s right for the state and the country on renewable energy the fight against climate change.”

WILDLAND FIRE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS SCIENCE-BASED DATA COLLECTION BENEFITS. The [Yuma \(AZ\) News Now](#) (2/24, Newman) reports on an analysis of a major 2011 Texas wildland fire conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) “using a rigorous and scientifically based post-fire data collection approach, a system they believe will lead to improved defensive measures and strategies for significantly reducing structural damage and property loss.” The wildland urban interface (WUI) study “was conducted in collaboration with the Joint Fire Science Program (US Department of the Interior and the US Forest Service) and the Texas A&M Forest Service,” the article reports.

LAWYER AT FOREFRONT OF CONSERVATION MOVEMENT PASSES AWAY. The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (2/24, 6K) reports that “Henry Louis Diamond, a champion of land and water conservation for more than five decades in both public and private life, died of medical complications on February 21, 2016, at a hospital in Washington, D.C.” Diamond was “83 and had been ailing of Parkinson’s disease.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Times](#) (2/24, Roberts, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/24, Barnes, 8.98M).

ADDITIONAL CONVERGE: THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS DESIGNATED IN CALIFORNIA. Additional coverage of the three new national monuments designated in California was provided by [EPNewswire](#) (2/24), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/24, 92K), the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (2/24, 110K), and the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (2/24, 180K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AN ISSUE IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE. Additional coverage that federal management has emerged as an issue for Western voters in the presidential

race was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/24, 48K), [Vice](#) (2/24, 1.65M), [Outdoor Life Magazine](#) (2/24, 5.1M), and [Salon](#) (2/24, 837K).

EPA ACCUSED OF AVOIDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOLD KING MINE DISASTER. Glenn G. Lammi, Chief Counsel, Legal Studies Division, for Washington Legal Foundation, writes at [Forbes](#) (2/24, 8.72M) that “over the past two weeks, several executives for a now-bankrupt chemical supply company in West Virginia received prison sentences for discharges of a pollutant and for failing to have a pollution-prevention plan.” Meanwhile, the House Committee on Natural Resources “released a report shedding further light on the role of Environmental Protection Agency employees and contractors in the release of toxic wastewater from a Silverton, Colorado mine on August 5, 2015.” Lammi claims that “the juxtaposition of the two cases amply demonstrates the double standard that prevails where federal government employees evade accountability for their actions while demanding full environmental compliance from everyone else.” He goes on to examine both of these cases in detail.

Empowering Native American Communities:

JUDGE APPROVES SETTLEMENT IN UNDERFUNDED FEDERAL CONTRACT LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (2/24, Hudetz, Press, 1.99M) reports that “a judge has approved a nearly \$1 billion settlement between the Obama administration and Native American tribes over claims the government shorted tribes for decades on contract costs to manage education, law enforcement and other federal services.” According to the article, “attorneys for the tribes learned Wednesday that a federal judge in Albuquerque approved the agreement, about five months after the Interior Department and tribal leaders announced they had reached a proposed \$940 million settlement in the class-action lawsuit.” Kevin Washburn, who recently resigned from his post as Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said, “It just shows the Obama administration has been working throughout two terms to stop litigating with tribes. Now, even in the last year of the administration, they’re getting this lengthy case settled.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/24, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/24, Services, 2.17M) the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/24, Mary Hudetz |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/24, Hudetz, 285K), the [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (2/24, 145K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/24, 290K), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (2/24, 534K), the [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (2/24, 163K), [ABC News](#) (2/24, 4M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/24, 4.92M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/25, Hudetz, 6.31M), [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/24, 88K), [Law360](#) (2/25, 22K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/24, 404K), and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/24, 88K).

HOUSE PASSES TRIBAL TRUST ASSET REFORM BILL. [Law360](#) (2/24, 22K) reports that the U.S. House of Representatives “unanimously passed a bill Wednesday to open a potential path for Native American tribes to manage their assets held in federal trust, with the bill’s backers pointing to purported mismanagement by the U.S. Department of the Interior.” H.R. 812, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, would “establish a pilot program allowing tribes to negotiate with the DOI to manage their own trust assets.”

BIA’S DECISION NOT TO DESIGNATE TRIBAL LEADER UPHELD. [Law360](#) (2/25, 22K) reports that the BIA “didn’t have to recognize anyone as the head of an Oklahoma tribe when it increased its contractual payout to the tribal government in 2014, the U.S. Department of the Interior Board of Indian Appeals ruled Tuesday in upholding a decision that angered several rival Native American leaders.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE ON SELF-DETERMINATION. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (2/24, 61K) reports that “Robert Underwood, president of the University of Guam, on Tuesday called on the White House to take the initiative in pushing for self-determination among the territories.” Underwood “represented Guam at a recent panel on self-determination held in Washington D.C.” According to the article, “much of the conversation focused on the power Congress has over the territories and what territories can still do to pursue decolonization.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Guam Daily Post](#) (2/24) and [Guam Daily Post](#) (2/24).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR OFFICIAL IN FBI CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION TIED TO LAS VEGAS FIRM HE SUPERVISED.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/25, 479K) reports that a BOR official "targeted in an FBI-led corruption investigation sat on the boards of two public companies tied to an accounting firm agents raided last week." The focus of the probe is "allegations of bribery and kickbacks related to a \$1 million financial audit of Hoover Dam." According to the article, "the accounting firm of LL Bradford & Co. won the contract last year, and the Bureau of Reclamation official, Fredrick 'Rick' Zaffarese-Leavitt, was among those who oversaw the work."

SEN. FEINSTEIN WORKING TO CLEAR PATH FOR DROUGHT BILL. [Politico Pro](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein's "drought measure may win precious floor time if it can clear the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee," she said Wednesday morning. According to the article, "Feinstein told the Association of California Water Agencies she has met with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and 'he seemed at the time to be favorable,' although she noted that the controversy around the Supreme Court vacancy could alter the political dynamics." However, "first she needs to move the measure through Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Energy and Natural Resources Committee – an effort complicated by the fact that no Californians sit on the panel and her fellow Californian Barbara Boxer is not at this point behind the bill."

HOUSE HEARING ON CALIFORNIA WATER MARKED BY TENSION. The [McClatchy](#) (2/24, 22K) reports that "the year's first congressional hearing on California's water crisis incited stern voices and familiar feuds Wednesday, but showed no sign of legislative progress." Instead, according to the article, "for two hours, lawmakers largely remained in trenches dug over many years as they lobbed shells at one another and, at times, the assembled witnesses." McClatchy reports, "in theory, the hearing on California's water supply might have illuminated the state's hydrological state of affairs and how it might be improved." However, "for much of the hearing, old plot lines and ancient political practices prevailed over crucial fact-finding."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (2/24, 358K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (2/24, 336K), and the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (2/24, 111K).

SOME CALIFORNIA FARMERS TO RECEIVE NO WATER BECAUSE OF EPA EFFORTS TO SAVE FISH.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Richardson, 285K) reports some California farmers in the San Joaquin Valley may again receive zero surface water from the federal government because 162 billion gallons are expected to be diverted into the Pacific Ocean as part of EPA efforts to save the "nearly extinct" Delta smelt fish. At a hearing Wednesday before the House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) said the water diversion hasn't lead to any success in rehabilitating the species, while several GOP committee members argued that efforts to save the fish were responsible for the ongoing regional drought. David Murillo, Bureau of Reclamation mid-Pacific regional director, acknowledged Delta smelt populations are still low, but said the diversion is necessary to comply with the ESA.

REP. KNIGHT INTRODUCES CLEAN WATER BILL. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/24, 431) reports that Rep. Steve Knight has "introduced legislation that would give a boost to efforts to clean the Eastern Santa Clara River Basin and provide fresh water to the Santa Clarita Valley." The Castaic Drinking Water Act would "authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to fund new water supply programs associated with communities impacted by perchlorate contamination plumes, like the Santa Clarita Valley, in order to restore lost local groundwater supply and decrease dependence on imported water supplies."

HUNGRY HORSE DAM PROJECT COULD COST \$200 MILLION. The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (2/25, 52K) reports that BOR officials are "conducting an environmental assessment on an estimated \$200 million in upgrades to Hungry Horse Dam expected to take nearly a decade." According to the article, "if all goes smoothly, project manager Chris Vick said, the work could begin in 2017 and wrap up as early as 2025." Vick said, "The units are pretty much reaching the end of their expected life. You want to get ahead of that before you start breaking down and you're in repair mode constantly."

WORKERS FIXING LEAK ON GRAND COULEE DAM. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (2/24, 41) reports that "those who were disappointed in the Laser Light Show last season because the Bureau of Reclamation couldn't spill water as a backdrop for the lasers will be happy to hear that things will be fixed in time for the show this spring." The BOR has "normally allowed a shallow spill across the face of the dam during the light show, adding a whitewater backdrop for the colored lasers," but "when a seal leak on one gate began leaking last year, it meant the lasers had only the dark concrete to dance on." According to Lynne Brouger, public affairs officer for Grand Coulee Dam, "work to repair the seal on drum gate three, the villain last year, will begin March 14, and will be finished by May 14."

PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON GLEN CANYON DAM. The [Lake Powell \(AZ\) Chronicle](#) (2/25, 7K)

reports that Interior agencies will “host two public meetings, February 22 and 25, in Flagstaff and Tempe and a public webinar, March 1, to answer questions and discuss the recently-released DOI draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed long-term environmental management plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam.” According to the article, “these events are open to the general public and will include subject matter experts from both the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation who will be available to answer questions about the details of the draft EIS and the LTEMP.”

MEXICO PAYS DOWN RIO GRANDE WATER DEBT. The [Rio Grande Valley \(TX\) Morning Star](#) (2/25, 53K) reports that “Mexico has finally paid down its Rio Grande water debt to the United States, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission announced Wednesday.” According to IBWC United States-Mexico, “debt had accumulated over the course of a five-year water-delivery cycle that ended in late October.” The agency said that “since then, Mexico has delivered enough water to erase the shortfall, making the final delivery on Jan. 25.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DEEPWATER WIND EYES BROOKLYN SITE FOR OFFSHORE WIND BASE. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/24, Ryan, 2.92M) reports that Deepwater Wind LLC is “looking at a Brooklyn waterfront site as a staging ground as it pursues a potential project off the south shore of Long Island, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.” According to the source, “securing the waterfront site, the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, would be Deepwater’s first step toward building the wind farm that would generate clean power for New York City.” The article says that “the move is part of Deepwater’s efforts to make turbines more common in U.S. waters.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Crain’s New York Business](#) (2/24, 178K).

PERMIT PULLED FOR PALEN SOLAR PROJECT. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (2/25, 15K) reports that on Wednesday, the California Energy Commission “pulled the plug” on the Palen Solar project. The commissions said that “Palen Solar’s 2010 permit is no longer valid” and “that means any solar plant now proposed for the site needs to start at the beginning with permitting and environmental review, which may be less attractive as the price of urban solar continues to drop.”

NEVADA WIND ENERGY PROJECT FACES RESISTANCE. The [Daily Signal](#) (2/24, Mooney, 36K) reports a Federal District Court judge “ruled against the development of an 87-turbine, 200-megawatt wind farm in tiny Searchlight, Nevada, and the company behind the project joined with the US Interior Department to file an appeal.” It could take another year for the case to be decided, meanwhile the Searchlight Wind Energy Project remains stalled. Conservationists and some property rights activists oppose the project. Among them, town resident Judy Bundorf and others were behind the court challenge. They suggest the court’s rejection of “the Interior’s environmental impact and biological conclusions could set a legal precedent for future renewable energy initiatives,” the article reports.

CHANGES TO DRECP SUGGESTED. The [Barstow \(CA\) Desert Dispatch](#) (2/24, 279) editorializes that “the hard, necessary work” in assembling the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan will “pay off for generations of Americans if this plan does what it is supposed to do — protect desert lands that are state and national treasures while at the same time allocating other lands for renewable energy and mining interests.” It recognizes that “the BLM has been a good partner in this process and it is with that in mind that we suggest it consider these changes to the Phase 1 of the DRECP: 1) Ensure permanently protected conservation areas are not exposed to new mining development, just as places designated for mining or renewable energy projects will not be available for conservation; 2) Tweak the plan so it will provide specifics about how to withdraw National Conservation Lands from mining while honoring existing valid claims. 3) Include the Big Maria Mountains northwest of Blythe, Lower Centennial Flat north of China Lake and Bristol Valley east of Amboy in the National Conservation Lands.”

Onshore Energy Development:

APPEALS COURT DECLINES TO FAST-TRACK FRACKING APPEAL. [Politico Pro](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday “declined to fast track the Interior Department’s appeal of the preliminary injunction placed against its fracking rule, and is weighing putting the

appeal on ice temporarily until a permanent injunction is entered." According to the article, "in a short order, the two-judge panel asked Interior and various environmental groups instead to address the suggestion by industry groups to put the circuit-level appeal on hold until a lower court judge issues a permanent injunction." The parties have "until March 7 to file their response."

Additional coverage of the litigation was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 705) and [Law360](#) (2/24, 22K).

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT RECLAMATION BY MINING COMPANIES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/24, Yardley, 4.1M) reports that "amid a stunning collapse of the coal industry that has prompted some of the nation's largest mining companies to file for bankruptcy, there are new questions about how the giant holes dug in Wyoming and elsewhere across the West will be filled and who will pay to fill them." Last month, "prompted by a complaint from environmental groups, the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement challenged Wyoming regulators to show that two major companies that have both filed for bankruptcy in the last year, Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, have enough money to do the reclamation work they are obligated to do." And "in the weeks since then, following more complaints from environmental groups, the agency has made similar demands related to mines operated in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Indiana and Illinois by another imperiled company, Peabody Energy."

Environmental Group To Sue Peabody Over Mine Cleanup Money. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports WildEarth Guardians gave Peabody Energy a required 60-day notification "that it intends to file a lawsuit claiming it is violating the federal mine reclamation law," arguing that the company "doesn't have the money to make good on its promise to clean up its mines in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming."

ALASKA GOVERNOR ENCOURAGING ANWR DEVELOPMENT. [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (2/25, Baird, 59K) reports Alaska Gov. Bill Walker is looking to encourage development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge after Royal Dutch Shell pulled out. Walker "penned national editorials decrying Federal restrictions that prohibit production in the oil-rich onshore coastal region in the North Slope," the article reports. In addition, Walker's plan includes a monthly spending of \$12,500 on a contract with oil and gas expert Andy Mack. Walker said Wednesday: Mack "sat with me last week in a meeting with Secretary (Sally) Jewell in her office to talk about offshore drilling to make sure we're still on the five-year plan, and we hope we are." He added, "Every time I've done anything on the North Slope regarding oil and gas, in some way I've reached out to Andy just because he has a unique knowledge in that regard." Walker continued, "We can be a little bit more aggressive with the president and Secretary (Sally) Jewell because we don't have projects elsewhere that could be impacted."

MURRAY ENERGY TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [Emery County \(UT\) Progress](#) (2/24, 8K) reports that Ryan M. Murray, Vice President of Operations of Murray Energy Corporation, testified before the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial & Antitrust Law on the stream protection rule. The article pushes a statement by Murray on "the national destruction being caused" by the rule.

MCCARTHY: ENERGY INDUSTRY EMITS MORE METHANE THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Scheyder) reports EPA Administrator McCarthy on Wednesday defended her agency's efforts to reduce methane emissions, noting the US oil and natural gas industry emits more methane than had been previously thought. In remarks to IHS CERAWEEK, McCarthy said, "Methane emissions from existing sources in the oil and gas sector are substantially higher than we previously understood," adding, "The data confirm that we can and must do more on methane. ... By tackling methane emissions, we can unlock an amazing opportunity to better protect our environment for the future."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON CAPTURING NATURAL GAS WASTE. [Public News Service](#) (2/25, 306) reports that the BLM will "hold a public hearing in Lakewood next Tuesday, Mar. 1, on its proposal to reduce natural-gas waste on public lands."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CLIMATE ACTIVIST BIDS IN LEASE AUCTION. Additional coverage of the Participation of climate activist Terry Tempest Williams in a BLM lease auction was provided by the [Salt Lake City Weekly](#) (2/24, 116K).

TATE: CHINA, NOT OBAMA TO BLAME FOR US COAL COLLAPSE. Curtis Tate writes for the [McClatchy](#) (2/24, 22K) that according to an analysis by the Rhodium Group, China's slowing economy has played a role in the collapse of US coal. As China's economic growth has cooled, so has its demand for steel which is made using the metallurgical coal US coalfields supplied. "Although only 7 percent of the coal produced domestically

each year is used to make steel, it was selling at \$200 a ton five years ago, compared with \$50 a ton for steam coal, which is burned by power plants. Last year, metallurgical coal prices declined to \$85 a ton." Tate writes that China's decline has hurt coal more than Obama Administration policies.

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY DIRECTORS: RIGHT-TO-WORK LAWS WOULD REVIVE COAL STATES. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Julia Crigler and Jason Huffman, who are respectively the Kentucky and West Virginia state directors for Americans for Prosperity, argue that right-to-work legislation could benefit both states' economies that they say have been ravaged by the Obama Administration's war on coal. While West Virginia has completed its right-to-work law, the authors urge Kentucky's state legislators to enact a statewide legislation while a US appeals court decides on the validity of 12 Kentucky counties that moved ahead with right-to-work laws on their own.

Offshore Energy Development:

RALLY HELD AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING IN NEW JERSEY. [New Brunswick \(NJ\) Today](#) (2/24) reports that Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. have "actively joined in the campaign to fight the oil industry from exploiting the Atlantic Ocean through offshore drilling." They "rallied in Asbury Park on January 31, along with...over 100 local leaders, environmentalists and tourist groups to raise awareness about the negative impacts of drilling in the Atlantic on the economy and environment of New Jersey."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: STUDY SHOWS IMPACT OF BP OIL SPILL ON DEEPWATER SHIPWRECKS. Additional coverage of the study showing the impact of the BP oil spill on sea life near shipwrecks was provided by [Newsweek](#) (2/24, 693K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/25, Procopiou, 6.31M).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, COUNTY OFFICIALS MEET TO DISCUSS CONTROL OF WILD BURRO HERDS. [Cronkite News](#) (2/24) reports that "federal and county officials agreed after face-to-face meetings in Washington this week that 'there is a problem' with overpopulation of wild burros in Arizona's western counties and that something needs to be done." According to the article, "Mohave County supervisors who attended the meetings called them an important first step toward finding a long-term, humane solution, with options that were discussed ranging from adoption to contraception to, ultimately, culling the herd." Moss and fellow Supervisor Hildy Angius were joined by supervisors from Yuma and La Paz counties in meetings Tuesday with officials from the BLM and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (2/25, 27K).

EXPANSION OF UTAH MILITARY TESTING RANGE CRITICIZED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/24, Maffly, 388K) reports that "a fresh proposal for expanding the Utah Test and Training Range has hit Congress, this time identifying mineral-rich federal lands to be traded with the state as well as giving Utah easements to hundreds of routes in Juab, Tooele and Box Elder Counties." The Tribune explains that "on Thursday, the House Natural Resources Committee will hear the new bill, formally known as the Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act." Utah Sen. Jerry Stevenson recently told a legislative panel, "The grazing lands will stay there in the name of Bureau of Land Management. ... It will only be used for flyovers. There won't be anything dropped. The bombing range won't be expanded, per se. Ranching activities will continue." Meanwhile, according to the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, "the BLM lands to be acquired by the state hold minerals that have already been explored." However, environmental groups have expressed opposition.

UTAH CONGRESSMAN TAKES AIM AT FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/24, Maffly, 388K) reports that "Rep. Mike Noel's latest effort to rein in federal law enforcement in rural Utah sailed through a legislative committee Wednesday." The Tribune says he "alleges the Bureau of Land Management has become an unbearable police presence, encroaching on the authority of elected county sheriffs and intimidating local residents." The Tribune explains, "His HB391 would help ensure that federal land agencies rely on local law enforcement to the maximum extent possible, as required under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976, Noel told the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality, which

unanimously advanced the bill to the House floor." Noel also complained about a lack of cooperation between local and Federal officials, "It's a real problem. We have one individual who is a bad actor. The governor's office asked he be removed, that hasn't happened," referring to Dan Love, the BLM's special agent in charge of Utah and Nevada.

RICHFIELD REAPER: PUBLIC LAND USE NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED. In an editorial, the [Richfield \(UT\) Reaper](#) (2/24, 102K) says that at the Utah Livestock Grazing Rights Conference "ranchers who are tired of allotments being reduced on federal land and competing with big game for forage listened, asked questions and in some instances grumbled." The Reaper says that the "pressure to close off established uses of public lands has...prompted the state of Utah to pursue an endeavor to force the federal government to cede the land it controls to the state." The paper concludes that "while this probably won't work, hopefully it will be a push to get more local control and input in the management of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands."

WRITER CLAIMS "BLM POLICING, POLITICS ARE OVERZEALOUS." Robert Miller writes at the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/24, 198K) that "back in the early 1990s...I drew the wrath of the Bureau of Land Management when I authored a news article that was headlined, 'This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land, It Was Intended for You and Me.'" The says that the BLM was "founded by Congress under the Taylor Grazing Act is administered under the U.S. Department of Interior, along with the U.S. Forest Service," and that over the years it has "continued to grow and garner more political power, and the time-honored Smokey Bear image gave way to gun-toting federal agents." He says that government overreach led to the "Sagebrush Rebellion" and "the recent confrontations at the Bundy ranch in Nevada and Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." He concludes that "such confrontations clearly are not the solution" and that "only a political rebellion sufficient to garner the attention of Congress will halt the zeal of these bureaucrats."

CONGRESS URGED TO PROTECT WILD HORSES. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, 518K), Suzanne Roy, Campaign Director, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, writes that "buried in President's proposed 2017 budget is a provision" that allows the BLM to strip wild horses "of their protected status and turn them over to state and local authorities, which could then easily send them to 'kill plants' in Mexico with no oversight whatsoever." According to Roy, "it's the latest in a long series of BLM shirking its responsibility to do as Congress and the American people have long demanded – humane preservation of wild horses and burros on their native range." She urges Congress "to protect America's wild horses and burros from BLM brutality."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR DAN ASHE INTERVIEWED. [DailyMotion](#) (2/24) posted a video of an interview with FWS Director Dan Ashe. Ashe gave an overview of the his responsibilities and issues facing the agency.

28 CITIES AWARDED FWS GRANT. [KRCR-TV](#) Redding, CA (2/25, 32K) reports that "the city of Arcata was one of 28 cities in the nation to get a Fish and Wildlife Service Grant." According to the article, "the \$475,000 grant will be used to specifically improve flooding infrastructure, fish and wildlife habitats and hydrology at Jacoby Creek."

PROJECT ANNOUNCED TO RAISE ELEVATION OF SACHUEST POINT MARSH. The [Newport \(RI\) Patch](#) (2/24, 1K) reports that "work is underway to strengthen and restore critical marsh habitat at the Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge as the coastal sanctuary for birds and fish is under increasing climate-based threats." The FWS and The Nature Conservancy on Tuesday announced "a \$1.98 million cooperative agreement to begin restoration efforts and deploy a technique known as 'thin-layer deposition' to replenish the estuary and actually raise its elevation by strategically spreading sand." According to the article, "the project will concentrate on 11 acres of marsh to raise the elevation through the TLD process, which essentially makes up for what civilization has taken from the marsh: the natural cycle of sand being deposited into the estuary by rivers that have been dammed and drained by Aquidneck Island's population over hundreds of years."

NEW HEADQUARTERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BIG MUDDY WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Columbia \(MO\) Missourian](#) (2/24, 21K) reports that a new headquarters for the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge "under construction across from Rocheport will soon allow" Tim Haller, "the refuge's visitor services manager, to replace the mobile exhibit and its miniature river with the real Big Muddy." According to the article, "the headquarters will have administrative space, and in 12 to 18 months, a classroom and an educational area with exhibits about the refuge." The article notes that "an overlook will also be built on the property."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING DEATH OF 13 BALD EAGLES ON A MARYLAND FARM. [NBC News](#) (2/24, 3.58M) reports that “the reward for information in the ominous deaths of 13 bald eagles increased Wednesday to \$25,000, jumping up from the previous reward of \$10,000.” The Center for Biological Diversity is “offering up to \$15,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case of 13 bald eagles that were found dead on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.” The article notes that “the pledge from the Arizona-based non-profit, along with previous contributions from the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, the Phoenix Wildlife Center Inc. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pushes the total reward to \$25,000.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Smithsonian](#) (2/24, 6.89M), [RT](#) (2/24, 350K), and [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/24, 106K).

MARINE MAMMAL BIOLOGISTS VISIT SAINT LAWRENCE ISLAND. [KNOM-FM](#) Nome, AK (2/24) reports that “a team of biologists travelled to Saint Lawrence Island on Wednesday to consult with local walrus hunters in Savoonga and Gambell.” Jim MacCracken, who heads the Alaska program for marine mammals management with the FWS, says “biologists are eager to collect traditional knowledge from hunters and community members.” According to the article, “some of that information will help the group as they develop an assessment of the Pacific walrus population as part of a process outlined under the Endangered Species Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K).

NEW MEXICO GAME BOARD TO HEAR TURNER WOLF REQUEST. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/25, 290K) reports that the New Mexico Game Commission will hold “a special meeting Friday in Albuquerque to hear a request by the Turner Endangered Species Fund to import five Mexican Wolves and temporarily hold them at Ladder Ranch in southern New Mexico.” The Turner Endangered Species Fund, the FWS and the Mexican government “want to hold the wolves at Ladder Ranch before they are exported to a facility in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, for eventual release into the wild in Mexico.”

ENDANGERED ANIMALS AT IOWA ZOO SUFFER CAPTIVITY, POOR CONDITIONS. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, Wells, 518K) reports on the Cricket Hollow Zoo in Manchester, Iowa, which offers tourists access to animals in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions and is facing a lawsuit by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), filed Feb. 11. The article reports “Judge Jon Scoles issued an order that the zoo must transfer its endangered species to facilities that can meet the animals’ needs,” the article reports, adding “This victory sets a groundbreaking legal precedent for animals and will be life-changing for the four tigers and three lemurs who were the subject of the suit.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR PRAIRIE CHICKEN CONSERVATION PROGRAM. In an op-ed for the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 421K), Adam Riggsbee, president of RiverBank Ecosystems in Austin, and Kirk Williams, a member of Williams Family Ranch & Mineral, write that “in the almost two years since the lesser prairie chicken was added to America’s endangered species list, we have watched its recovery program — the rangewide plan, a five-state government collaborative — struggle to meet federal government standards.” They claim that “U.S. Department of Justice filings during ongoing federal district court litigation in Texas show fatal flaws in the program.” While they “acknowledge the plan is unprecedented in its scale and degree of interstate collaboration, its challenges are persistent and potentially unassailable.” The authors argue that “without immediate intervention, the lesser prairie chicken population is unlikely to recover.”

National Park Service:

NPS CERTIFIES 2015 VISITATION NUMBERS AT 307 MILLION. The [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (2/24, 13K) reports that last week, the NPS “certified 2015 national park visitation at more than 307 million.” The agency also released its popular Top 10 list of the most visited national park sites.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “The popularity of national parks is well known, but last year’s numbers really are extraordinary. As the National Park Service celebrates its 100th year, we’re preparing to welcome more visitors than ever including a new generation of park supporters and advocates who are discovering their own national park adventures.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/25, 290K).

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING FOUNDER OF A.M.E. Church Unveiled. The [Afro American \(DC\)](#)

(2/25, 33K) reports that "Sylvia Cyrus, ASALH executive director; Ronald A. Stroman, deputy postmaster general, USPS; Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, president of ASALH and Jon Jarvis, National Park Service director unveiled Feb. 20 the commemorative stamp of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the A.M.E. Church."

HOUSE PASSES KENNESAW MOUNTAIN PARK, MLK SITE EXPANSION BILLS. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/24, 1.1M) reports that the House has passed a bill that would expand Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. The measure would "add eight acres to the park, as well as a historic, two-bedroom farmhouse that once served as Union General Oliver O. Howard's headquarters." The House also passed a measure that would "designate the Martin Luther King Jr. Historic Site as a national historic park."

SEN FEINSTEIN REINTRODUCES LEGISLATION THAT COULD EXPAND JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/24, 98K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein has "reintroduced legislation that could expand Joshua Tree National Park and attempts to balance conservation with off-road recreation and renewable energy development in the California desert." The measure is "similar to a bill the California Democrat introduced last February but it leaves out 1.8 million acres of California desert that are part of three national monuments – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains – that President Barack Obama designated earlier this month." According to the article, "remaining in the bill are provisions that create five off-road vehicle areas, designate 230,000 acres as wildlife areas, and add more than 43,000 acres to the Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks – 39,000 acres to the former and 4,500 acres to the latter. Joshua Tree is currently about 800,000 acres."

INCREASE IN VISITORS EXPECTED AT FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL. The [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (2/24, 40K) reports that the NPS is "estimating that more than 400,000 people will visit the Flight 93 National Memorial in 2016." According to Deputy Superintendent Keith Newlin, "that is based on numbers from 2015, when 86,000 toured in September and October alone." Newlin said, "There's a great interest in the story. People may come and learn more about the story of the heroes of Flight 93."

WYOMING SENATORS SEEK TO SELL TWO PARK PARCELS AT ONCE. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (2/24, 1K) reports that "a bill that encourages the Department of the Interior to deal for the two sections of Wyoming-owned land in Grand Teton National Park with a single acquisition has passed the Wyoming Senate." According to the article, "during Tuesday's session Wyoming's 30 senators unanimously supported Senate File 88, 'State lands within Grand Teton National Park.'" The article notes that "included in the legislation is an amendment that would strip potentially value-sapping easements from a square-mile section of land near Kelly if the federal government doesn't obtain both 1-square-mile parcels at once."

NPS SEEKS TO PRESERVE YOSEMITE NAMES. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (2/24, 3.37M) reports that "just days before Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel and other famed sites at the park lose their names to an ugly trademark battle that has left visitors nationwide seething, subtle moves by the National Park Service suggest there's hope the names won't be gone for long."

NPS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR GRAND CANYON BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT. The [AP](#) (2/24, 285K) reports that the NPS has "extended a public comment period on a plan to manage the backcountry areas of the Grand Canyon." The article notes that "one of the most significant parts of the proposals is to have hikers who venture more than 5 miles down the most popular trails obtain a day-use permit and pay a minimum \$5 fee." The proposal also "addresses more remote areas of the park and relatively new recreation activities such as canyoneering, rim-to-rim excursions and backpacking trips that require short travel on the Colorado River." The public comment period now ends April 4.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/24, 290K) and the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (2/24, 3K).

CAVERNS ELEVATOR REPAIR TARGET DATE PUSHED TO MAY. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (2/24, 18K) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park "had hoped to have a temporary solution to its lack of elevators at the park by March, but that date is now looking more like May." Park public affairs specialist Valerie Gohlke said, "We were hoping to have them back up and running by spring break." But "Gohlke said the process is long and complicated and the March date was only a projection." According to the article, "the new goal is to have the freight elevators ready for passengers by Memorial Day weekend, which Gohlke said is one of the park's busiest times of the year."

FIRST YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY SPOTTED OUT OF ITS DEN. The [AP](#) (2/25, 285K) reports that "Yellowstone National Park has reported its first grizzly bear sighting of 2016." According to the article, "park

officials spotted the male grizzly bear Tuesday near the Nez Perce Creek drainage during a wolf survey flight." Park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett says "the timing of this year's first grizzly sighting has come a little earlier than average."

NEW PLAY DEPICTS HOW BOSTON MASSACRE HELPED SHAPE AMERICA. The AP (2/25, Herbaugh) reports that the Boston Massacre has "inspired a new stage play." "Blood on the Snow" will be "performed in May in the very same room where the colonists agonized over their options and how to heal their shattered town, bringing to life the history that played out in the raw aftermath of the slaughter." The play, "a production of the Bostonian Society in partnership with the National Park Service, tells the story of how Massachusetts Gov. Thomas Hutchinson managed to forestall more violence between British soldiers and colonists on the day following the attack."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE". Additional coverage of "National Parks Adventure" was provided by the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (2/23, 85K) and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (2/24, 591K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DEATH VALLEY'S "SUPER BLOOM" OF WILDFLOWERS. Additional coverage of the "super bloom" of wildflowers at Death Valley was provided by [CNN](#) (2/24, 3.96M), [NPR](#) (2/24, 1.81M), and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, 442K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YOSEMITE "FIREFALL" FALLS PHENOMENON. Additional coverage of the "firefall" phenomenon at Yosemite was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/24, Schlossberg, Subscription Publication, 12.03M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS PROPOSES NEW DOG-WALKING REGULATIONS AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. Additional coverage that the NPS has "released its proposed rules for walking dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area" was provided by the [Half Moon Bay \(CA\) Review](#) (2/24, 22K).

CONGRESS URGED TO FUND MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS. In his column for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/25, 402K), Jay Evensen writes that the "nation's parks are \$11.9 billion behind on their honey-do lists, and that is five times more than the amount Congress gives the service each year." According to Evensen, "the most viable solution...is to take the millions the government collects each year from offshore oil and gas royalties, a part of which goes to the Parks Service, and devote more of it to maintenance than to acquiring more land." He also says that "another intriguing idea is to sell federal land that is isolated, difficult to maintain or serves no real federal purpose, and use that money to fix parks."

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS WARN VIRUS THREATENS SALAMANDERS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Fears, 8.98M) reports that "when the feared virus known as Bsal lands on the backs of newts and salamanders destined for the pet trade, scientists predict that lots of wild salamanders are expected to die." According to the article, "this isn't some unfounded alarm for scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey, who wrote a report published recently in Royal Society Open Science." In a statement announcing the study, the USGS said, "Bsal is decimating wild salamander populations in Europe and could emerge in the U.S. through the captive amphibian trade."

Top National News:

REPUBLICAN NEVADA GOVERNOR FLOATED AS POTENTIAL OBAMA HIGH COURT NOMINEE. While network television coverage of the ongoing partisan battle over filling the Supreme Court vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia was relatively light, online and print coverage are very heavy, with many reports focusing on a [SCOTUSblog](#) post by the President in which he discussed the criteria he will consider before naming a nominee. Also garnering significant attention are the President's criticism of Senate Republicans and his prediction that they will relent in their refusal to hold hearings or votes on his nominee, as well as word that Nevada's Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval is being considered as a potential nominee.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Debonis, Eilperin, 8.98M) cites "two people familiar with the selection process" who say Sandoval "is among the Supreme Court candidates under White House consideration." The Post says Sandoval would be "unconventional pick" which "runs counter to Obama's emphasis on taking a long view of who deserves to sit on the nation's highest court." The AP (2/24, Jalonick) notes that the choice of a Republican

"would be seen as an attempt by President Barack Obama to break the Senate GOP blockade of any of his choices." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, Thompson, 442K) said a Sandoval nomination "could serve as a compromise position, if the GOP were amenable to compromise," but Senate Republicans "have repeatedly insisted they will not act on any possible appointments until a new president is elected."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/24, story 5, 1:50, Holt, 7.86M) said the vetting of Sandoval "seems designed to put GOP senators in an uncomfortable position." Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (2/24, Davis, Herszenhom, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) notes that the leak of Sandoval's name "appeared to be a political feint," calling Sandoval "a candidate seemingly calculated to demonstrate the depths of Republican obstreperousness." According to the [New York Post](#) (2/24, Schultz, 2.92M), the President "is likely counting on bad optics of senators rejecting a fellow Republican to soften the resistance to confirmation hearings."

In an analysis on its website, [TIME](#) (2/24, Rhodan, Beckwith, 18.01M) said there are "a number of reasons why Sandoval would be uniquely positioned to break a Senate Republican boycott." Among them, he is a "former US District Court judge," who was "nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by a 89-0 vote in 2005." In addition, Sandoval, who is "popular in his home state," would "bring diversity" as well as "experience in elected office." Sandoval also "supports abortion rights," a position which "would be a deal-breaker for President Obama and Democratic Senators if he were not." While "none of this means Sandoval will be picked or even confirmed," it "does explain why his name is being floated." [USA Today](#) (2/24, Wolf, 5.45M) notes that "Sandoval's ultimate nomination is considered unlikely," but the President "could gain credibility among some Republicans and independents for agreeing to consider someone from the opposite party."

In his [SCOTUSblog](#) (2/24, 2K) post, the President wrote that he takes his constitutional duty to appoint Supreme Court justices seriously and will fulfill it "in the weeks ahead." The President went on to provide "some spoiler-free insights into what I think about before appointing the person who will be our next Supreme Court Justice," noting that the nominee "will be eminently qualified," and will be "someone who recognizes the limits of the judiciary's role." The President added that he will seek someone who "views the law not only as an intellectual exercise, but also grasps the way it affects the daily reality of people's lives in a big, complicated democracy, and in rapidly changing times."

A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says the President's post "was more notable for the forum than for its message." The President has "a knack for picking unconventional places to press his agenda," and SCOTUSblog, "an indispensable resource for students of the Supreme Court, is a particularly apt forum for this post." The Times calls the post "a valuable summary of what Mr. Obama is looking for in a justice" and goes on to provide "some highlights, translated." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/24, Doming, 289K) casts the SCOTUSblog post as part of the White House's "two-pronged strategy" which consists of "relying on allies to shame the Republicans for their obstruction" while showing the President "in high-minded deliberations over the next nominee."

[ABC World News](#) (2/24, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley are "now agreeing to meet with President Obama to discuss nominees." Meanwhile, the President said Wednesday he hopes and expects the Senate to consider his nominee. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/24, story 6, 1:40, Crawford, 5.08M) said the President "started the hard sell for his eventual supreme court nominee, predicting Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will cave."

The [New York Daily News](#) (2/24, Edelman, 3.7M) says the President "defiantly vowed to choose someone to fill the vacancy in the 'weeks ahead' and blasted the GOP's latest ploy as a product of its leaders bowing to the extremists within their party." [Reuters](#) (2/24, Mason, Cowan) reports the President said Republicans would risk a public backlash if they prevented the confirmation of a qualified nominee for political reasons.

The [New York Times](#) (2/24, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the President predicted McConnell and other Republicans "would not be able to sustain their refusal to acknowledge or act on his nominee, adding that in his private conversations with some of them on the matter, it was clear to him that they were not comfortable with that stance." [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 5.45M) similarly says the President "said the GOP does not seem completely committed to the blockade," telling reporters, "They're pretty sheepish about it," and the [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Boyer, 285K) reports the President said McConnell and other Republicans "don't seem fully committed to their stand."

A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says while Republicans "seem certain that they can hold together, and have assured conservative groups that they will not relent once Mr. Obama chooses a nominee," Democrats "are intent on trying to shake Republicans off their position, which

Democrats view as unsustainable." In a separate story, the [New York Times](#) (2/24, Davis, Herszenhom, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that the "entire Democratic power structure on Wednesday mobilized to break through Republican opposition and clear a path" for the President to name a nominee.

In his [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says while Democrats "have no authority to force the Republican majority to vote on Obama's eventual nominee, or even to hold a hearing," they "think they can make Republicans pay a political price for their reflexive decision not to hold a hearing for an Obama nominee." [Politico](#) (2/24, Gass, 1.07M) said the President "and his congressional allies lashed out at Republicans on Wednesday" over their position. On the Senate floor, Minority Leader Reid "rant[ed] against...Grassley's 'ineptness.'" Sen. Chris Coons "ripped into the GOP for its 'elementary-school response.'" Meanwhile, the President told reporters that "Republicans are approaching the process with flawed logic, noting he finds it ironic that Republicans who say they are constitutional conservatives are fighting him."

On its website, [NPR](#) (2/24, Johnson, 1.81M) quotes the President as saying, "I'm going to do my job, I'm going to nominate someone...and let the American people decide as to whether that person is qualified." According to NPR, this means the court "could operate without a full complement of nine members for a year or more, the equivalent of two terms of the Supreme Court." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/24, Memoli, 4.1M) says the President called the GOP position "so unprecedented it risked the integrity of the US judicial system."

However, an [AP](#) (2/24, Lederman, Hennessey) analysis notes that while the President "insists he'll put forward an 'outstanding candidate' no matter what the GOP says, the White House is hard-pressed to offer a convincing scenario in which that person gets confirmed." The nominee "will become the face of well-financed, high-intensity, election-year campaigns both for and against that will rage across the country" and will "have little ability to influence the debate and even less control over how the chapter plays out."

Ayotte, Portman Say They Will Not Meet With Obama Nominee. In what [Politico](#) (2/24, Everett, Robillard, 1.07M) called "the latest sign that even at-risk Republicans are digging in behind...McConnell as his Senate majority hands in the balance," Sens. Kelly Ayotte and Rob Portman "said they would not meet with a Supreme Court nominee." Ayotte said in an interview Wednesday "in terms of the advise and consent process, I believe we should wait to have the people weigh in on who the next president is. And to weigh in, obviously, based on who...that next president will nominate," Portman also said "he wouldn't meet with a potential Obama pick," noting, "Not if we're not going to move forward."

Johnson, Grassley Defend Senate GOP's Position; USA Today And NYTimes Disagree. Meanwhile, Sen. Ron Johnson defended the Senate GOP's position, "saying the rejection of Obama's pick in the GOP Senate is a foregone conclusion," the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (2/24, Sommerhauser, 264K) reports. Speaking at an event in Madison, Wisconsin Wednesday, Johnson "cit[ed] Obama's past nominees to the high court, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor," and argued "there's no reason to believe he and his Senate GOP colleagues could approve the next one." Said Johnson, "He's got a track record. We know the type of justice he would appoint. We wouldn't confirm that individual. ... Not acting is also withholding our consent, and that's within our right." The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/24, Stein, 743K) says Johnson noted that "the next nominee could flip the majority of the court from conservative to liberal," and "said that he or she would affect rulings on issues ranging from firearms to free speech." Therefore, he argued, it is "reasonable to leave the appointment and confirmation to the next president and next US Senate." Johnson's comments drew fire from former Sen. Russ Feingold, who is challenging him in the November election.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (2/24, 5.45M), Grassley also defends the GOP's decision, saying it is "based on the principle that in an American democracy, in a divided nation, the people should be empowered to weigh in on such a consequential decision." While the President "has the constitutional authority to nominate a justice in an election year, which he intends to do," the Senate "has the equal constitutional authority to consent or withhold consent," and "history is on our side" because "not since 1888 has an election-year nominee been confirmed during a divided government to fill a vacancy occurring in the same year."

However, an accompanying [USA Today](#) (2/24, 5.45M) editorial blasts the GOP's stance, saying their "outright obstructionism represents a new low in this long-running conflict." USA Today says if the President's nominee "has impeccable credentials, falls within the broad judicial mainstream and demonstrates a healthy regard for legal precedent, then he or she deserves hearings and an up-or-down vote. Anything less is putting politics above constitutional principle." A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial is also critical of Republicans, saying they "apparently believe they can profit by creating a political crisis that the nation has never seen before." The Times argues McConnell "seems to have lost touch with reality and the Constitution," adding that while the "Republican spin machine is working overtime to rationalize this behavior," it

is “panic masquerading as strength.”

Salon’s Daley: Obama Could Have Filled Vacancy With A Recess Appointment. In a piece for [Salon](#) (2/24, 837K), editor-in-chief David Daley argues “for several days last week,” the Administration could have “play[ed] a more aggressive game if they wanted to fill Scalia’s seat this year” by making “a recess appointment that could have replaced Scalia through the end of this Senate next January.” However, the President “actively decided to let that window close.” Noting that the President “seemed...to recognize the nature of the opposition heading into this final year of his presidency” as he “let loose a torrent of executive orders on immigration, gun control and climate change,” Daley asks “why the return to the soaring historic rhetoric about ‘advise and consent’ and not a recess appointment, when he had the chance, to deal with the entirely predictable GOP blockade?”

Scalia Died Among Members Of An Exclusive Fraternity Of Hunters. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Brittain, Horwitz, 8.98M) reports on Scalia’s final days, noting he died “among high-ranking members of an exclusive fraternity for hunters called the International Order of St. Hubertus, an Austrian society that dates back to the 1600s.” The Post provides details on the “the worldwide, male-only society” whose members “wear dark-green robes emblazoned with a large cross and the motto ‘Deum Diligite Animalia Diligentes,’ which means ‘Honoring God by honoring His creatures,’” but notes that it is “unclear what, if any, official association Scalia had with the group.”

POLL: TRUMP SEIZES LEAD IN OKLAHOMA, HOLDS NINE-POINT EDGE. [The Hill](#) (2/24, Richardson, 862K) reported that a Cole Hargrave Snodgrass and Associates survey of 400 Oklahoma likely Republican primary voters, taken Feb. 22-23, shows Donald Trump leading with 29%, followed by Sen. Marco Rubio at 21%, Sen. Ted Cruz at 20%, Ben Carson at 6%, and Gov. John Kasich at 5%. The Hill added that Trump has gained “5 points since the last version the poll two weeks ago, while Cruz has dropped 5 points over that same span.” Oklahoma holds its presidential primaries on March 1.

LYNCH: LAW PROHIBITS SENDING GITMO DETAINEES TO US TERRITORY. The [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Dinan, 285K) reports Attorney General Lynch said Wednesday that federal law prevents President Obama from sending Guantanamo Bay detainees to US territory. Lynch said, “That is the state of the law.” The Attorney General added that her understanding is that the President’s plan, released Tuesday, represents a “goal” and is not an effort to circumvent previous legislation.

USA Today Analysis: Obama Could Empty Most Of Prison Without Closing It. A [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 5.45M) analysis says “one often-overlooked part of the closure plan could greatly reduce the number of detainees” at the facility by transferring 35 prisoners already approved for release to other countries, and determining the similar eligibility of 46 others. USA Today says “that would leave only a handful of hard cases subject to indefinite detention and 19 currently in some phase of having their case adjudicated by a military commission.” That impact, according to USA Today, “could further put legal, political and diplomatic pressure on Congress.”

Ryan: House Republicans Preparing Legal Action If Needed. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Comwell) reports House Speaker Ryan said Republican lawmakers are preparing legal action in the event Obama attempts to transfer the detainees. Ryan said, “We are making legal preparations if the president tries to break the law.” Ryan added, “And what boggles my mind is that the president is contemplating directing the military to knowingly break the law.”

Powell Reiterates Support For Closing Gitmo. [Politico](#) (2/24, Gass, 1.07M) reports former Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday “reiterated his support for closing” Gitmo, saying the facility has “always been slowly closing over the last 10 years.” Powell said on MSNBC that senators such as John McCain and Lindsey Graham should urge Obama to present specifics and then assess the plan. Powell said, “As secretary of state, Guantanamo was a heavy load to carry as I went around the world talking about human rights, talking about how you treat prisoners, talking about how you can’t have indefinite detention or the use of torture to get things out of people.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*Senate Republicans Lose Their Minds On A Supreme Court Seat.*” A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial is critical of Senate Republicans’ position on the President’s nomination to fill the Supreme Court seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, saying they “apparently believe they can profit by creating a political crisis that the nation has never seen before.” The

Times argues Majority Leader McConnell "seems to have lost touch with reality and the Constitution," adding that while the "Republican spin machine is working overtime to rationalize this behavior," it is "panic masquerading as strength."

"Governors Unite In The War Against Opioids." The [New York Times](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes that with the "epidemic of drug overdose deaths" in the US, it is "important" that the National Governors Association plans to create guidelines that would restrict how and under what circumstances painkillers could be prescribed. The Times also says President Obama's funding request last month for treatment and prevention programs is "reasonable, given the size of the national [opioid] problem."

"A Bad Effort In Congress To Thwart States On Food Labels." A [New York Times](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says it is a "bad idea" for Congress to "make it harder for consumers to know what is in their food by prohibiting state governments from requiring the labeling of genetically modified foods." The Times says that while "polls have found that about 90 percent of Americans favor mandatory labels for genetically modified foods," the "only thing these lawmakers seem to favor consistently is protecting corporate interests."

WASHINGTON POST. "The Fight Between Apple And Law Enforcement Should Not Be Left To The Courts." The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) editorializes the conflict between Apple and law enforcement over access to protected data "is not a question that should be left to magistrate judges ruling in the heat of a case." The Post says Rep. Michael McCaul and Sen. Mark Warner's efforts to draft a bill establishing "a national commission on security and technology challenges in the digital age" may seem like "an underwhelming response," but "the alternative is courts drawing the lines." A court decision, according to the Post, "may be worse for Apple and other tech firms than at least trying to find some way to thread the data security needle." The Post says if "another major terrorist attack" occurs in the US, "the debate could quickly turn much less favorable to Silicon Valley."

"GOP Leaders, You Must Do Everything In Your Power To Stop Trump." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) says, "The unthinkable is starting to look like the inevitable: Absent an extraordinary effort from people who understand the menace he represents, Donald Trump is likely to" win the GOP presidential nomination. The Post adds that "history will not look kindly on GOP leaders who fail to do everything in their power to prevent a bullying demagogue from becoming their standard bearer."

"Will The DC Council Get Serious About Reforming The City's Pay-To-Play Culture?" The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) editorializes for the DC Council to "give fair consideration" to DC Attorney General Karl Racine's comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation that would end a loophole allowing unlimited donations to PACs outside election years, and more importantly would prohibit campaign contributions "from those seeking or conducting significant business with the District." The Post adds that the "irony" of Racine's current "vigorous fundraising to retire his election debt" is "yet another reason the rules need to be stiffened."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Apple Goes To The Supreme Court." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes the Supreme Court should agree to hear the antitrust case involving the Justice Department's accusation that Apple conspired with publishing houses to increase e-book prices. The Journal says that by taking the case, the court can show the law permits the innovation and new business models that are necessary to grow the economy.

"Exonerating Rick Perry." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes in support of a Texas court's decision to dismiss the criminal case against former Gov. Rick Perry, arguing that the charges against Perry were baseless and politically motivated.

"Trump And The Also-Rans." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says that as Donald Trump continues to march toward the GOP nomination, his primary foes continue to attack each other rather than the billionaire. The Journal says that if Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio continue this strategy and don't take specific aim at Trump, the billionaire may well clinch the GOP nomination by the middle of next month.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

US Warns Banks Off Russian Bonds
Ted Cruz Faces Must-Win Challenge In Texas
How Islamic State's Secret Banking Network Prospers
The Big New Threat To Oil Prices: A Glut Of Gasoline

New York Times:

Rubio Has Party, But Not Time, On His Side
Candidate Often At Odds With Orthodoxy
Crackdowns On Free Speech Rise In A Europe Wary Of Terror
Security 'Arms Race' As Apple Is Said To Harden iPhone Tech
Shadow Of Human Rights Abuse Follows Contender In FIFA Vote
Supreme Court Abortion Case Seen As Turning Point For Clinics

Washington Post:

GOP Trio Must Act Fast To Stall Trump
A Moment To Embrace On A Kinder Campaign Stop
Secret Police? Virginia Considers Bill To Withhold All Officers' Names.
In Brazil, Zika Exposes Class Divide
Kalamazoo's Agonizing Wait For Why

Financial Times:

IMF Urges To Economies To Join Forces In Growth Push
CEO Email Scams Cost Business \$2bn As Staff Fall For Trick To Send Cash Overseas

Washington Times:

Trump Matches Romney's 2012 Support As Rivals' Infighting Clears Path To Victory
Sanders Uses Poverty To Drive Wedge Between Clinton, Blacks
Obama Administration Promises Crackdown On Sanctuary Cities
Planned Parenthood Dented As American Cancer Society Backs Away From Breast Exams
Latest Confederate Cleansing Target Is Statue Of Dred Scott Justice At Maryland State House
US Volunteers Set Up Field Hospitals To Treat Kurds Battling Islamic State

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Reid Endorses Clintons; Tim Cook Interview-Part 1; Tim Cook Interview-Part 2; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Hawaii-Helicopter Crash Investigation; Sports Reporter Stalker Case; Colorado-Police Shooting; Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit Verdict.

CBS: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Louisiana; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Skakel Murder Case; Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit Verdict; Atlas Robot; Congressional Gold Medal Recipients.

NBC: Severe Weather; Takata Airbags Investigation; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Sports Reporter Stalker Case; Melania Trump Interview; Mississippi-Tainted Water Discovery; E-Cigarettes Battery Explosion; Astronaut Scott Kelly Interview.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 12 minutes, 15 seconds
Severe Weather/Weather Forecast – 11 minutes, 25 seconds
Sports Reporter Stalker Case – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit Verdict – 2 minutes, 25 seconds
Justice Scalia Replacement Debate – 2 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tim Cook Interview; Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Wall Street.

CBS: Severe Weather; New North Korea Sanctions; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Texas-Charges Against Former Gov. Pery Dismissed.

FOX: Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Oregon Occupiers Plead Not Guilty; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Tim Cook Interview; Skakel Murder Case.

NPR: Severe Weather; Tim Cook Interview; Oregon Occupiers Plead Not Guilty; Louisiana-Abortion Law Dispute; ACA Lawsuit; California-Former State Senator Sentenced.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; participates in a panel discussion, South Court Auditorium, Open Press; holds a meeting with his National Security Council at the State Department, travel pool coverage; delivers a statement, State Department, travel pool coverage.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden and Commerce Secretary Pritzker in Mexico for annual economic dialogue.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brad Carson to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Jennifer O'Connor to be Department of Defense General Counsel; and Todd Weiler to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Tara Andringa Senate Armed Services Committee Tara_Andringa@levin.senate.gov 1 202 228 3685.

10:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on patent reform – Hearing on 'An Examination of Changes to the US. Patent System & Impacts on America's Small Businesses', with invited witnesses including former USPTO Commissioner of Patents Robert Stoll, Licensing Executives Society Chairman-elect Brian O'Shaughnessy, and Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures Technology Transfer Exec Dir Neil Veloso. Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

10:00 AM Senate HSGAC hearing on 'Connecting Patients to New and Potential Life Saving Treatments' – Hearing on 'Connecting Patients to New and Potential Life Saving Treatments', with testimony from Fairleigh Dickinson University Rothman Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Exec Dir Joseph Gulfo, Goldwater Institute President and CEO Darcy Olsen, Laura McLinn (Indianapolis), Diego Morris (Phoenix), and Kids v Cancer Exec Dir Nancy Goodman. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

10:00 AM Business meeting to consider the Chairman's Mark on Biotechnology Labeling Solutions. Location: Rm 328A Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Meghan Cline Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry meghan_cline@ag.senate.gov 1 202 224 2035.

10:30 AM AG Lynch testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on DoJ FY'17 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the US. Department of Justice', with testimony from Attorney General Loretta Lynch. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

12:30 PM Dems Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce WARN Act – Democrats Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce the 'Whistleblower Augmented Reward and Non-Retaliation Act of 2016', to expand protections for those who put their careers at risk to blow the whistle on financial crimes, via press conference. Government Accountability Project Legislative Director and Investigator Shanna Devine and Americans for Financial Reform Senior Policy Analyst Alexis Goldstein also speak. Location: S-120, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/cummings/> <https://twitter.com/RepCummings>. Contacts: Jennifer Kohl Press secretary to Rep. Elijah Cummings Jennifer. Kohl@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4289. Please RSVP to Fabion. Seaton@Mail.House.Gov if you plan to attend.

1:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs roundtable on five years of the Tribal Law and Order Act – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs roundtable discussion on 'The Tribal Law and Order Act 5 Years Later: Next Steps to Improving Justice Systems in Indian Communities'. Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs 1 202 224 2251.

2:00 PM Senate HELP Committee considers Education Secretary nominee – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Executive Session, with agenda including consideration of Dr. John King to be

Secretary of Education. Dr. King would replace Arne Duncan, who stepped down at the end of 2015 after almost seven years in the role. Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate HELP Committee 1 202 224 5375.

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on impact of high-skilled immigration on US. workers – Immigration and the National Interest Subcommittee hearing on 'The Impact of High-Skilled Immigration on US. Workers', with testimony from former Disney IT Engineer Leo Perreo, Washington Alliance of Technology Workers Attorney John Miano, JackThreads CTO Mark O'Neill, Rutgers University John J. Heldrich Center For Workforce Development Senior Faculty Fellow Dr. Hal Salzman, Colgate University Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Chad Sparber, and Howard University Associate Professor of Public Policy Dr. Ron Hira. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224 7703.

US House: 9:00 AM Caucus on Corrosion Prevention Congressional briefing on 'Preventing the Next Flint' – Congressional Caucus on Corrosion Prevention Co-Chairs Democratic Rep. Elizabeth Esty and Republican Rep. Pete Olson host 'Preventing the Next Flint Water Crisis – What is America's Corrosion Plan?' Congressional briefing, with technical experts from the corrosion and water industries discussing federal policy options to ensure all communities have access to uncontaminated drinking water. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee, DNV GL VP Oliver Moghissi, and corrosion engineer Yaofu Zhang. Location: Rm 411 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC esty.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepEsty>. Contacts: Craig Frucht Rep. Esty Communications Director craig.frucht@mail.house.gov 1 203 561 6457.

9:00 AM Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Capitol Hill celebration – Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Capitol Hill Breakfast and Briefing, honoring the day dedicated to 'empowering and engaging girls in the engineering field'. Hosted by Democratic Rep. Dan Lipinski, with speakers including Democratic Reps. Donna Edwards and Paul Tonko, Lockheed Martin VP of Energy, Environment, Safety & Health Carol Cala, US. Navy Engineer LaTisha Durham, and American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics Exec Dir former astronaut Sandy Magnus. Location: Rm B354 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.discovere.org> <https://twitter.com/DiscoverEorg>. Contacts: Geena Pandolfi Sayles & Winnikoff Communications geena@sayleswinnikoff.com 1 212 725 5200. Best Time for Coverage: 9:00 AM.

9:00 AM Agency chiefs testify to House Intelligence Committees on worldwide threats – Hearing on 'World Wide Threats', with testimony from CIA Director John Brennan; Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; FBI Director James Comey; National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen; National Security Agency Director Adm. Michael Rogers; and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart. Location: HVC-210, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>. Contacts: House Select Intelligence Committee intelligence.hpsci@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4121. Press set up will begin at 7:00 am. All media must be in place by 8:00 am ET.

9:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Indian Health Service budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Indian Health Service', with testimony from Indian Health Service Acting Director Robert McSwain, and Deputy Director Mary Smith. Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee oversight hearing on VA IG – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Inspector General Linda Halliday and Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections John David Daigh Jr. Location: Rm 2362-B, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

9:30 AM Secretary of State Kerry testifies to House Foreign Affairs Committee on FY'17 budget – Hearing on 'Strengthening US. Leadership in a Turbulent World: The FY 2017 Foreign Affairs Budget', with testimony from Secretary of State John Kerry. Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>. Contacts: House Foreign Affairs Committee 1 202 225 5021.

10:00 AM House Space Committee hearing on the Space Leadership Preservation Act – Hearing on 'The Space

Leadership Preservation Act and the Need for Stability at NASA', with testimony from Republican Rep. John Culberson; former NASA Administrator Michael Griffin; former NASA astronaut Col. (Ret.) Eileen Collins; and Government Accountability Office Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management Cristina Chaplain. Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>. Contacts: House Committee on Science, Space and Technology 1 202 225 6371.

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on defense contracting – Contracting and the Workforce Subcommittee hearing on 'Hotline Truths: Issues Raised by Recent Audits of Defense Contracting', with testimony from Department of Defense Assistant Inspector General for Contract Management and Payments Michael Roark; and Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers President Chuck Spence. Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>. Contacts: House Small Business Committee 1 202 225 5821.

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on cross border data flow – Hearing on 'International Conflicts of Law Concerning Cross Border Data Flow and Law Enforcement Requests', with testimony from Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General David Bitkower, Microsoft President and Chief Legal Officer Brad Smith, former Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, Intellectual Ventures Exec VP and General Counsel David Kris, and American University Washington College of Law Assistant Professor Jennifer Daskal. Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>. Contacts: House Judiciary Committee 1 202 225 3951.

10:00 AM Defense Secretary Carter testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Department of Defense', with testimony from Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, and Under Secretary Mike McCord; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:00 AM HHS Secretary Burwell testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Department of Health and Human Services', with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Matthews Burwell. Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on pipeline safety – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on 'Reauthorization of DOT's Pipeline Safety Program', with testimony from Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez; Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) President and CEO Andrew Black; Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) President and CEO Donald Santa; XCEL Energy Senior Vice President for Gas Cheryl Campbell (on behalf of American Gas Association); and Pipeline Safety Trust Executive Director Carl Weimer. Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>. Contacts: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 1 202 225 9446.

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on 'Full Spectrum Security Challenges in Europe' – Hearing on 'Full Spectrum Security Challenges in Europe and their Effects on Deterrence and Defense', with testimony from US. European Command Commander Gen. Philip Breedlove. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

10:00 AM Acting Education Secretary King testifies to House committee hearing on the ESSA – Hearing on 'Next Steps for K-12 Education: Upholding the Letter and Intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act', with testimony from Acting Secretary of Education Dr. John King. Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>. Contacts: House Committee on Education and the Workforce 1 202 225 4527.

10:00 AM Congressional Hispanic Caucus Pen & Pad session – Congressional Hispanic Caucus Pen & Pad session with reporters, with CHC Chairwoman Rep. Linda Sanchez, Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, and other members of the Caucus. Location: House of Representatives, Washington, DC <http://congressionalhispaniccaucus-sanchez.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HispanicCaucus>. Contacts: Jasmine Mora CHC Communications Director Jasmine. Mora@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 2410.

10:00 AM House Agriculture subcommittee hearing on G-20 swap data reporting goals – Commodity

Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee hearing 'To review the G-20 swap data reporting goals', with testimony from Commodity Futures Trading Commission CIO John Rogers, ISDA Co-Head of Data Reporting and FpML Tara Kruse, Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation MD and CEO of DTCC Data Repository Marisol Collazo, and Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness Director Andres Gil. Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>. Contacts: House Committee on Agriculture press agpress@mail.house.gov.

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on impacts of Puerto Rico's debt crisis – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis and Its Impact on the Bond Markets', with testimony from John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Senior Research Professor of International Economics Dr Anne Kruger, CPG Island Servicing Senior Managing Director Juan Carlos Batlle, FTI Consulting Global Head of Financial Institutions and Senior Managing Director William Isaac, and Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi. Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>. Contacts: House Committee on Financial Services press 1 202 226 0471.

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on 'Security Clearance Reform' – Hearing on 'Security Clearance Reform: The Performance Accountability Council's Path Forward', with testimony from Office of Personnel Management Acting Director Beth Cobert, Department of Defense Chief Information officer Terry Halvorsen, Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director for Management Tony Scott and Office of the Director of National Intelligence Director of National Counterintelligence and Security Center William Evanina. Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>. Contacts: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 1 202 225 5074.

10:00 AM LULAC Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill – League of United Latin American Citizens Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Includes Advocacy Day Luncheon, with speakers including House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Rm B-339 / B-340 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC (12:30 PM EST) include * Part of the 19th LULAC National Legislative Conference & Awards Gala. Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC www.lulac.org <https://twitter.com/LULAC>. Contacts: Paloma Zuleta LULAC pzuleta@lulac.org 1 202 812 4477. Rep. Hoyer remarks at approx 1:30 PM

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on Puerto Rico – Oversight hearing on 'The US. Department of Treasury's Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico', with testimony from Treasury's Counselor Antonio Weiss. Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>. Contacts: Parish Braden House Committee on Natural Resources parish.braden@mail.house.gov

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on DHS Human Resource Information Technology program – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'Probing DHS's Botched Management of the Human Resources Information Technology Program', with testimony from GAO Information Technology Acquisition Management Issues Director Carol Cha, Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management Chip Fulghum, and Department of Homeland Security Chief Human Capital Officer Angela Bailey. Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>. Contacts: House Homeland Security Committee 1 202 226 8417.

10:30 AM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs markup hearing – House Committee on Veterans' Affairs markup hearing of HR. 4336; HR. 4063; HR. 4129; HR. 1769; HR. 3484; Draft legislation, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with certain healthcare providers to furnish hospital care, medical services, and extended care to veterans; and, Draft legislation, the FY 2016 VA Seismic Safety, Construction, and Lease Authorization Act. Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>. Contacts: House Committee on Veterans Affairs 1 202 225 3527. Official Committee Photo of the 114th Congress' at 10:15 AM in 334 Cannon.

10:30 AM FDA Acting Commissioner Ostroff testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Food and Drug Administration', with testimony from FDA Acting Commissioner Dr Stephen Ostroff, and CFO Jay Tyler. Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

11:00 AM Dem Rep. Beto O'Rourke speaks on border bill – Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke speaks on 'HR

3576, Border Enforcement, Accountability, Oversight and Community Engagement Act', which calls for greater accountability and oversight of the border enforcement strategies and the US. Border Patrol, via press conference with Border Network for Human Rights Exec Dir Fernando Garcia, El Paso County Commissioners Court County Commissioner David Stout, South Texas Human Rights Center Founder Eddie Canales, Hope Border Institute Exec Dir Dylan Corbett, Kino Border Initiative Director of Education and Advocacy Joanna Williams, and Mercy Ministries of Laredo Casa de Misericordia Exec Dir Sister Rosemary Welsh. Location: Rm 2103 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.bnhr.org. Contacts: Gabriela Castaneda Border Network for Human Rights gcastaneda@bnhr.org 1 915 494 4213.

12:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including: 'HR. 3624, Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015'; and 'HR. 2406, SHARE Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/> Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. 10:00 am. for Morning Hour debate.

12:30 PM Dems Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce WARN Act – Democrats Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce the 'Whistleblower Augmented Reward and Non-Retaliation Act of 2016', to expand protections for those who put their careers at risk to blow the whistle on financial crimes, via pres conference. Government Accountability Project Legislative Director and Investigator Shanna Devine and Americans for Financial Reform Senior Policy Analyst Alexis Goldstein also speak. Location: S-120, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/cummings/> <https://twitter.com/RepCummings>. Contacts: Jennifer Kohl Press secretary to Rep. Elijah Cummings Jennifer. Kohl@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4289. Please RSVP to Fabion. Seaton@Mail. House. Gov if you plan to attend.

1:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation', with testimony from Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Executive Director Chris Bavasi. Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

2:00 PM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on CO-OPs – Hearing on 'Review of Obamacare Consumer Operated and Oriented Plans (CO-OPs)', with testimony from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services COO and Chief of Staff Dr Mandy Cohen, and Maryland Insurance Administration Commissioner Al Redmer Jr. Location: Rm 2157, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>. Contacts: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 1 202 225 5074

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on international insurance regulations – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Impact of International Regulatory Standards on the Competitiveness of US. Insurers: Part II', with testimony from Columbia Insurance Group President and CEO Gary Thompson (on behalf of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies), University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Dept of Legal Studies and Business Ethics Associate Professor David Zaring, Fairfax (US) Inc. Regulatory Affairs VP Joseph Torti III (on behalf of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America), and American Council of Life Insurers Reinsurance and International Policy VP and Chief Counsel Carolyn Cobb. Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>. Contacts: House Committee on Financial Services press 1 202 226 0471

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on emerging cyber threats – Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, Security Technologies Subcommittee hearing on 'Emerging Cyber Threats to the United States', with testimony from George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security Associate VP and Director Frank Cillufo, FireEye Threat Intelligence Lead Technical Director Jennifer Kolde, Symantec Security Technology and Response VP Adam Bromwich (on behalf of the Cyber Threat Alliance), and The RAND Army Research Division Forces and Logistics Program Associate Director Dr Isaac Porche. Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>. Contacts: House Homeland Security Committee 1 202 226 8417

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'HR. 2316, Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act', 'HR. 3650, State National Forest Management Act of 2015', 'HR. 3826, Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act', 'HR. 4510, Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act', and 'HR. 4579, To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation', with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Raul Labrador, Jared Polis, Greg Walden, Chris Stewart and Don Young, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Range Planning

Director James Sample, Acting National Forest System Deputy Chief Glen Casamassa, BLM Deputy Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals and Realty Management Karen Mouristen, District 2 Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank, and Southeast Conference Timber Committee Chairman Bryce Dahlstrom. Location: Rm 1334, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>. Contacts: Parish Braden House Committee on Natural Resources parish.braden@mail.house.gov

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FBI budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Federal Bureau of Investigation’, with testimony from FBI Director James Comey. Location: H-309, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on CPSC budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Consumer Product Safety Commission’, with testimony from CPSC Chairman Elliott Kaye, and Commissioner Ann Marie Buerkle. Location: HT-2, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Navy FY’17 budget – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Department of the Navy 2017 Budget Request and Seapower and Projection Forces’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition Sean Stackley; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8) Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy; and US. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Capability Development and Integration Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh. Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

2:30 PM African-American contributions during WWI celebrated at Capitol Hill briefing – Capitol Hill briefing celebrating Black History Month, focusing on the contributions that African Americans made during World War I, with members of the Congressional Black Caucus Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel, Corrine Brown, Sanford Bishop and Emanuel Cleaver, US. World War I Centennial Commissioner Exec Dir Dan Dayton, Emory University Prof. Pellom McDaniels, West Virginia University Prof. Joel Beeson, and New York University Prof. Jeff Sammons. Location: Rm B-318 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/rangel/> <https://twitter.com/cbrangel>. Contacts: Hannah Kim Rep. Charles Rangel Communications Director Hannah. Kim@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4365.

Other: 9:00 AM NHLA release Hispanic Public Policy Agenda – National Hispanic Leadership Agenda release 2016 Hispanic Public Policy Agenda, which details the Latino community’s ‘critical policy concerns’, including economic security and empowerment, education, immigration, government accountability, civil rights, environment and energy, and health, via press conference with Democratic Rep. Xavier Becerra, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Exec Dir Hector Sanchez; MALDEF President and General Counsel Thomas Saenz; Hispanic Federation President Jose Calderon; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health Exec Dir Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas; LatinoJustice PRLDEF President and General Counsel Juan Cartagena; and Farmworker Justice Director of Occupational & Environmental Health Virginia Ruiz, US Capitol House Triangle, Washington, DC (9:00 AM EST) * Later, Sanchez, Saenz, Calderon, Gonzalez-Rojas, Cartagena and Wilkes call on presidential candidates to respond to the Agenda, via press call (11:30 AM EST). Location: TBD nationalhispanicleadership.org <https://twitter.com/NHLAagenda>. Contacts: Estuardo Rodriguez Raben Group estuardo@rabengroup.com 1 202 631 2892 Brenda Arredondo Raben Group baredondo@rabengroup.com 1 202 587 4945. In the event of inclement weather, press conference will be moved to B-339/340 (Basement level), Rayburn House Office Building * Press call details: Participant Dial-in Number(s): 877 876 9174 Verbal conference code: NHLA.

9:30 AM Chinese foreign minister speaks at CSIS – Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at CSIS Statemen’s Forum on Chinese foreign policy and US-China relations. Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>. Contacts: H. Andrew Schwartz CSIS media aschwartz@csis.org 1 202 775 3242 handrewschwartz.

10:00 AM 2015 Anne Frank Award Ceremony honoring Nicholas Kristof and Cindy McCain – 2015 Anne Frank Award Ceremony honoring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof for his work to call attention to human trafficking and human rights violations around the world. Cindy McCain is presented with the Anne Frank Special Recognition Award for her work to raise awareness and educate the public on human trafficking. The event also features a discussion and Q&A, ‘Individual Responsibility in Confronting Human Trafficking’, with

Nicholas Kristof, Cindy McCain, and moderator Katrina Lantos Swett. Guests include Dutch Ambassador to the United States Henne Schuwer, and Democrats Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and Reps. Bill Huizenga, Derek Wilmer and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. Location: Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. SE, Washington, DC <http://www.the-netherlands.org/>. Contacts: Carla Bundy Royal Netherlands Embassy cy.bundy@minbuza.nl 1 202 274 2632 Jason LaLonde Anne Frank Center USA jlalonde@annefrank.com 1 212 431 7993 ext. 307.

10:00 AM 'Demographics and democracy' discussed at AEI – 'States of change: Demographics and democracy' American Enterprise Institute / Brookings Institution / Center for American Progress event, with experts giving presentations on demographic change and its implications for the nation's electoral future and key policy challenges. Agenda includes presentation from Hillary Clinton campaign senior strategist Joel Benenson. Location: AEI, 17th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>. Contacts: AEI media mediaservices@aei.org 1 202 862 5829.

11:35 AM New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Walk to Washington event – New Jersey Chamber of Commerce 79th Annual Walk to Washington & Congressional Dinner, with speakers including Democratic Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, Republican Rep. Chris Smith, NJTV Chief Political Correspondent Michael Aron, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst commander Col. Frederick Thaden. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC www.njchamber.com <https://twitter.com/njchamber> #chambertrain. Contacts: Scott Goldstein New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Communications Manager Scott. Goldstein@njchamber.com 1 609 989 7888 x 113.

12:00 PM US. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy speaks with youth on the nation's health – US. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy speaks at Truth Initiative conversation with youth from around the US. on proving the nation's public health through the lens of service, clinical care, research, and education. Murthy also shares his vision of how young people can be a part of tobacco-free living, and encourage change in their communities. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC truthinitiative.org. Contacts: Nicole Dueffert Truth Initiative media ndueffert@truthinitiative.org 1 202 454 5589. Doors: 11:00 am. EST Lunch: 11:30 am. Program: Noon to 1 pm.

12:00 PM Berkeley Research Group Associate Director James Koehler addresses Natural Gas Roundtable. Location: The University Club, 1135 16th St, Washington, DC <http://www.aga.org/> https://twitter.com/aga_naturalgas. Contacts: Ella Proctor American Gas Association eproctor@aga.org 1 202 824 7000.

12:30 PM Norwegian Energy Minister speaks on 'Gas from Norway's High North' – Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Tord Lien speaks at Atlantic Council Eurasian Energy Futures Initiative event 'Gas from Norway's High North: Bringing Energy Security and Opportunities to Europe', discussing how Norway's gas sector could be bring energy security and an opportunity for low-cost CO2-emission reductions to Europe. Location: Loews Madison Hotel, 1177 15th St. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>. Contacts: Atlantic Council info@AtlanticCouncil.org 1 202 778 4952. This event is open to press and on the record. BHussein@AtlanticCouncil.org.

1:30 PM McCain Institute for Human Trafficking Symposium – McCain Institute for Human Trafficking Symposium, with speakers include Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children President and CEO John Clark, The McCain Institute Human Trafficking Advisory Council Chair Cindy McCain, Courtney's House Founder Tina Frundt, StreetLightUSA Resident Advocate Carolyn Jones, and My Life My Choice Director of Mentor Services Ann Wilkinson. Location: Library of Congress, 10 First St. SE, Washington, DC <http://mccaininstitute.org/> <https://twitter.com/McCainInstitute> ##EndTrafficking. Contacts: McCain Institute events events@mccaininstitute.org. Doors open: 1:00 PM EST.

2:30 PM Census Bureau director and CFO briefing on FY'17 budget request – Census Bureau Director John Thompson and Chief Financial Officer Joanne Crane brief media, via online Web conference, about the Bureau's funding components in President Barack Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request. Location: TBD <http://www.census.gov/> <https://twitter.com/usensusbureau>. Contacts: US. Census Bureau press inquiries pio@census.gov 1 301 763 3030.

6:30 PM World Affairs Council Embassy Series event at the French Embassy – World Affairs Council Embassy Series event at the Residence of the French Ambassador, with remarks from the Ambassador of France to the US Gerard Araud. Location: 2221 Kalorama Rd., Washington, DC <http://www.worldaffairsdc.org> https://twitter.com/wac_dc. Contacts: World Affairs Council info@worldaffairsdc.org 1 202 293 1051.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Are you paying attention to the elections? How can you not? It's Donald Trump against all reasonable expectation. He's now the no kidding around favorite to become the Republican nominee for president. He won the Nevada caucuses last night. He didn't just win, he destroyed. He got more votes than Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz combined. It's huge. It's humongous. It's humiliatingly close to unanimous. Trump won in every demographic. He won white men, white women, white rich people, white poor people, rural whites, urban whites. He got one vote from a Chinese guy, which was nice."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump actually even won the Latino vote, which is amazing. ... I have to say it makes me wonder if people really come here from Mexico for a better life or if they come to get away from their relatives? Maybe they want the wall to keep their in-laws out."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Dr. Ben Carson finished a very distant fourth in Nevada. He only got five percent of the vote. But for some reason he's still not dropping out. He's promised to continue on. He said – and this is a quote – 'I believe that things are starting to happen here.' Here's how you know it's time to drop out. You know it's time to go when it's been weeks since Donald Trump even bothered to call you a moron."

Stephen Colbert: "Last night the GOP held their Nevada caucus, and the people of Vegas did what they do best – they pulled the lever and risked absolutely everything. And when it was over, it came up orange, orange, orange, because Donald Trump won a huge victory, taking every Las Vegas demographic: Elvis impersonators, white tiger handlers, even master illusionists."

Stephen Colbert: "The point is, Donald Trump is now the likely Republican nominee, with a real shot at being the next president, and I'm not sure if I'm horrified or entertained. It's like watching one of those nature documentaries where the python unhinges its jaw and slowly swallows the capybara and then becomes president of the United States."

Stephen Colbert: "But now, Trump winning all these primaries has caused the establishment Republicans to realize that Trump is winning all these primaries. ... Yes, like many other Las Vegas visitors, the GOP woke up this morning with a raging hangover, wondering what the [heck] happened last night."

Stephen Colbert: "This billionaire having his way with the election is shocking and unthinkable to the billionaires who have their way with our elections. So they've formed an anti-Trump super PAC, which has already spent more than \$3.5 million on negative ads – much of the cash coming from the family that owns the Chicago Cubs. And we all know the Cubs are synonymous with winning."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night was the Republican caucus in Nevada. And Donald Trump scored a big victory, bringing him one step closer to the Republican nomination. Yep. The Trump presidency is getting very real right now. It's getting so real, Mexico is starting to think a wall is a pretty great idea."

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right, Donald Trump won his third state last night. In fact, he got more votes than Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz combined. It was so bad, afterwards, Rubio and Cruz stopped fighting and just started holding each other."

Jimmy Fallon: "Did you see this? Donald Trump said that if elected president, he'd look into prosecuting Hillary Clinton for using her private email server. So, if Trump wins, Hillary will already be on trial for murdering her entire campaign staff."

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, after finishing a distant second in Nevada, Marco Rubio apparently went to bed as the results were still coming in. When asked if he needed a wake-up call, he said, 'I think I just got one.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday President Obama announced his plans to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Not to be outdone, Donald Trump announced that he wants to open a chain of Guantanamo Bays."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump won last night's Nevada Republican caucus with 45 percent of the vote. So it sounds like the people of Nevada are putting it all on red [referring to Trump's hair]."

Seth Meyers: "Following his win at last night's Nevada caucus, Donald Trump told supporters that he won in almost every voter demographic and said, quote, 'I love the poorly educated.' To which they replied, 'Us love you, Mr. Trump!'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump said yesterday that his supporters are so loyal that they would kill for him. In fact, that's who killed that thing he wears on his head."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump's wife, Melania, said in a new interview that she speaks at least four languages. Melania said she's always looking for a new way to say, 'Help me!'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump's wife, Melania, said in a new interview that her husband's amazing mind helped her fall for him. So it wasn't purely physical like we all assumed."

Conan O'Brien: "After he won yesterday's Nevada caucus, Donald Trump said, 'I love the poorly educated.' Trump then said, 'And when I'm president there will be more of them than ever.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Donald Trump's wife is speaking out more. Although she herself is an immigrant, Donald Trump's wife, Melania, says she is fine with her husband's tough, anti-immigration stance. When asked why, Mrs. Trump said she had about 4.5 billion reasons."

Conan O'Brien: "Wealthy GOP donors are now lining up behind Marco Rubio. Not because the donors think he can stop Trump, but because they think Rubio is the valet."

Conan O'Brien: "Hillary Clinton came to Los Angeles and she visited the set of the political drama 'Scandal'. It was an awkward moment when Hillary told the writers, 'Man, have I got some ideas for you.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Despite Jeb Bush's poor campaign, some analysts are already talking about the political rise of his son, George P. Bush. ... George P. Bush has already got his campaign slogan, 'Don't worry, I was adopted.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, July 23, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Jul 23, 2015 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Shell Receives Conditional Approval To Begin Drilling Off Alaska's Coast.](#)
- + [Detroit Picked For Youth Outdoors Initiative.](#)
- + [\\$400 Million In PILT Funding Distributed.](#)
- + [Senators Urge Congress To Reauthorize LWCF.](#)
- + [Senators Announce Legislation To Improve Federal Regulatory Process.](#)
- + [Interior's Instagram Account Recommended.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Browns Canyon National Monument Dedication.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: OPM Tells Federal Agencies They Will Have To Cover Costs For Response To Cyberattack.](#)
- + [Op-Ed: Legislation To Increase Logging Won't Stop Wildfires.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Two Tribes Back Kansas Effort To Block Quapaw Casino Expansion.](#)
- + [Judge Refuses To Evict Picayune Faction From Tribal Government Buildings.](#)
- + [Alaska Gets 30-day Extension In Native Land Case.](#)
- + [Oak Flat Land Grab Criticized.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Additional Coverage: Interior Provides \\$500,000 To Help Virgin Islands Prepare For 2017 Centennial Celebrations.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Environmental Groups Blast Delta Tunnels Plan.](#)
- + [Montana Officials Say Dam, Bypass Offer Best Chance For Pallid Sturgeon.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Judge Backs Interior On Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Decision.](#)
- + [National Mining Association Asks For Extension In Comment Period For Proposed Stream Protection Rule.](#)
- + [Energy Lease To Be Reviewed By Historic Panel.](#)
- + [BLM Gives Presentation On Proposal To Open Up Areas To Oil, Gas Exploration.](#)
- + [Oil Industry: Disposal Well Ban Would Be Expensive.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Presentation Given On Seismic Blasting.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Awards Contract For Aerial Survey For Doll Sheep In Alaska.](#)
- + [Skinny Dipper Hot Springs Will Stay Open For Now.](#)
- + [BLM Creates Portable Water Reservoirs To Help Firefighters.](#)
- + [BLM's Plans For O&C Timberlands Expected To Be Contested.](#)
- + [New Cameras To Help Detect Fires In Nevada.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Public Comments On Proposed Potash Project.](#)
- + [BLM To Hold Hearing On Wild Horse Gather.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Provide Adequate Funding For BLM To Protect World War II Desert Training Center.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [New Sportsmens' Bill To Be Unveiled In House.](#)
- + [US Remains Major Market For Illegal Ivory.](#)
- + [FWS Forensics Lab Dedicated To Solving Crimes Against Wildlife.](#)
- + [Nashport Elementary School Constructing New Outdoor Learning Center.](#)
- + [FWS Confirms Cow Killed By Wolf In Washington.](#)
- + [Dead Fish Discovered In Ventura County Drainage Channel.](#)
- + [Obama Administration Urged To Protect Pollinators From Pesticides.](#)
- + [Embargo On Shipments Of Game Specimens Criticized.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [House To Hold Two Hearings On National Parks.](#)
- + [Growing Glacier National Park Fire Forces Evacuations.](#)
- + [NPS Grants To Benefit Virginia Battlefields.](#)
- + [Summit Focuses On Florida's War On Invasive Species.](#)
- + [Fire Island's Sailors Haven Marina To Reopen After Repairs, Upgrades.](#)
- + [NPS Awards Restoration Grant To Boots Motel.](#)
- + [Bison Flips Woman Posing For Selfie At Yellowstone.](#)
- + [NPS Seeks Members For Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Advisory Council.](#)
- + [Downtown Topeka Properties Receive National Registration Of Historic Places Designation.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Three Southern Courthouses Designated National Historic Landmarks.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Ban On Sales Of Bottled Water At National Parks.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Administration Lobbies Congress For Support Of Iran Deal.](#)
- + [Obama Calls On Congress To Renew Ex-Im Bank.](#)
- + [US Charges Roof With Federal Hate Crimes.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SHELL RECEIVES CONDITIONAL APPROVAL TO BEGIN DRILLING OFF ALASKA'S COAST. [Politico Pro \(7/22\)](#) reports that "the Obama administration granted Shell approval to begin drilling in the Arctic waters off Alaska" on Wednesday, but "it said the oil giant must stop short of the oil reservoir there until its damaged ice breaker ship is repaired and returned to the site."

The [Greenwire \(7/23, Subscription Publication\)](#) reports that the BSEE "issued two conditional drilling permits allowing the company to drill the top sections of two wells in shallow Chukchi Sea waters about 70 miles from

the Alaska coast." The article notes that "the move – which allows Shell to resume drilling in the Arctic for the first time in three years – is a sign of the administration's continued commitment to exploring the frontier oil-rich region over the strong objections of its green allies." BSEE Director Brian Salemo said, "As Shell conducts exploratory activities, we will be monitoring their work around the clock to ensure the utmost safety and environmental stewardship."

The [AP](#) (7/22, Freking, Joling) reports that Shell "can only drill the top sections of wells because the company doesn't have critical emergency response equipment on site to cap a well in case of a leak." The BSEE said that Shell "could submit an amended application for deeper drilling" when the appropriate equipment is available.

The [New York Times](#) (7/22, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that the "capping stack" is currently aboard a vessel, the Fennica, which is heading to Portland, Oregon. If it can "eventually be deployed in the Chukchi Sea, Interior Department officials said, the company may submit an application to drill into the oil wells." [Reuters](#) (7/22, Gardner) reports that it is likely that the Fennica can reach the drilling site before preliminary drilling progresses sufficiently to require it, expected sometime next month.

The [AP](#) (7/22) reports that Salemo said, "Without question, activities conducted offshore Alaska must be held to the highest safety, environmental protection and emergency response standards." Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (7/22, 811K), [CNBC](#) (7/22, 1.79M), [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Freking, Joling, 6.76M), [NBC Yakima, WA](#) (7/23, 3K), [Fox Boston](#) (7/23, 131K), [Daily Mail](#) (7/23, 5.59M), [Kansas City Star](#) (7/23, 566K), [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [Yahoo News](#) (7/23, Freking, Joling, 5.98M), [Salon](#) (7/22, 1.08M), [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/23, 1.19M), [Seattle Times](#) (7/23, 962K), [East Oregonian](#) (7/23, 24K).

The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that the decision was "decried" by "environmental groups" who see it "posing a grave risk to the area's marine life." The Post says that the permits "are the latest twist in a long-running saga," that began with Shell paying \$2.1 billion for leases in 2008.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (7/22, 7K) reports that "the drilling approval disappointed some advocates of Arctic oil exploration as well as environmentalists who say it is too risky." Environmentalists slammed "the drilling approval Wednesday, arguing that the stepped-up oversight is not enough protection for a fragile Arctic ecosystem that could be devastated by an oil spill." Andrew Sharpless, CEO of the conservation group Oceana, said, "The government's approvals for Shell's drilling fly in the face of common sense. The Arctic Ocean is too important to trust to Shell, and our government must stop bending rules to accommodate the company. Until companies prove they can operate safely, allowing them in the Arctic Ocean is a dangerous mistake."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/23, Cama, 471K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (7/22, Yardley, 4.07M), [Bloomberg News](#) (7/22, Drajem, 2.66M), [Bloomberg News](#) (7/22, Drajem, 2.66M), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/22, 219K), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (7/22, 506), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/23), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (7/23, 99K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/22, Press, 1.19M), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/22, 219K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/23, Freking, Joling, 6.76M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (7/23, 99K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (7/23, 1.05M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/23), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/23, 2.28M), the [St. Augustine \(FL\) Record](#) (7/22, 33K), [Fox News](#) (7/22, 8.91M), [US News & World Report](#) (7/22, 811K), [Newsweek](#) (7/23, 198K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (7/23, 5.59M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/22, 3.3M), the [Sydney \(AUS\) Morning Herald](#) (7/23, 254K), [NBC News](#) (7/23, 3.73M), [CBS News](#) (7/23, 8.2M), [Argus Media](#) (7/23), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (7/22, 2K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication), [Maritime Executive](#) (7/23, 21), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/23, Freking, Joling, 5.98M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (7/23, 5.57M), [Grist](#) (7/23, 6K), and [KUCB-FM Unalaska \(AK\)](#) Unalaska, AK (7/23).

DETROIT PICKED FOR YOUTH OUTDOORS INITIATIVE. The [Detroit News](#) (7/22, 493K) reports that "representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior, YMCA of Metro Detroit and Mayor Mike Duggan's Office announced Detroit's participation Wednesday in a national effort with Let's Move! to get youth outside at a press conference at Milliken State Park." Metro Detroit's YMCAs will "work with local organizations to not only get children outside in public spaces but also encourage them to volunteer." Kristen Sami, U.S. Department of the Interior principal deputy assistant secretary, "also mentioned the initiative will create jobs."

\$400 MILLION IN PILT FUNDING DISTRIBUTED. The [Wayne County \(MO\) Journal-Banner](#) (7/23, 10K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "announced June 25 that about 1,900 local governments around the country are receiving a total of nearly \$405 million under the 2015 Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program." Jewell said, "Rural communities across the country contribute significantly to our nation's economy, food and energy supply, and help define the character of our diverse and beautiful country." She added, "PILT payments

are critical for maintaining essential public services, such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search and rescue operations. President Obama has proposed to fully fund the PILT program, and we encourage Congress to take the required action to make sure this important program continues.”

SENATORS URGE CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE LWCF. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “more than 20 liberal senators this week told leaders on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that Congress should reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the same time as it extends a program that pays counties containing federal lands.” The senators said “they would oppose extending county funding under payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) without an extension for LWCF, which is set to expire in September.” They wrote, “We believe the best solution is to fund and reauthorize the LWCF program and the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program together, as both programs are critical to communities across the country. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is in urgent need of a legislative solution that renews the program in its current form and reverses the annual diversion of the program’s authorized funding from its intended conservation purposes.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/23, Henry, 471K).

SENATORS ANNOUNCE LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE FEDERAL REGULATORY PROCESS. [E&E Publishing](#) (7/22, 705) reports that “a bipartisan Senate duo is pushing new legislation it says will bring more transparency and accountability to federal rules.” Sens. James Lankford and Heidi Heitkamp have “announced three bills that seek to mandate retroactive reviews of major regulations, require agencies to alert the public about upcoming rules and force agencies to reduce the impact of rules’ costs.” Lankford said, “Many regulations provide certainty to the marketplace and provide us with clean air and water but, unfortunately, too many federal rules are unnecessarily burdensome to families and businesses. This package of legislative solutions would improve the regulatory process and relieve the overwhelming burden that regulations have placed on our economy and families.”

INTERIOR’S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT RECOMMENDED. [Gizmodo](#) (7/23, 1.06M) highlights the Interior Department’s Instagram account as one of the best “government photo caches.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony for Browns Canyon National Monument was provided by the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (7/23, 87K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (7/23, 9K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (7/23, 9K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (7/23, 9K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (7/23, 9K), and the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (7/23, 9K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OPM TELLS FEDERAL AGENCIES THEY WILL HAVE TO COVER COSTS FOR RESPONSE TO CYBERATTACK. Additional coverage that the Office of Personnel Management is asking agencies to share the “cost of breach protections” was provided by the [Federal Times](#) (7/22, 117K).

OP-ED: LEGISLATION TO INCREASE LOGGING WON’T STOP WILDFIRES. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (7/23, Hanson, Dellasala, Subscription Publication, 12.12M), Chad T. Hanson, an ecologist with the John Muir Project, and Dominick A. DellaSala, chief scientist at the Geos Institute, write that legislation that would “increase logging in our national forests in the name of fire prevention and ‘restoration’ is ‘rooted in falsehoods and misconceptions.’” They note that “some of the bill’s supporters claim that environmental laws regulating commercial logging have led to more intense fires.” However, “as we saw in the 2013 fire near Yosemite, known as the Rim Fire and one of the largest in California history, commercial logging and the clear-cutting of forests do not reduce fire intensity.” The authors conclude that “the Senate should reject this legislation, and President Obama should veto it if it reaches his desk.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

TWO TRIBES BACK KANSAS EFFORT TO BLOCK QUAPAW CASINO EXPANSION. The [AP](#) (7/23, 2.28M) reports that “two tribes who operate their own casinos are seeking to join the legal fray in support of efforts by Kansas to block the Quapaw tribe from expanding its Downstream Casino in Oklahoma into southeast Kansas, arguing they have ‘significant competitive interests’ in the outcome of the litigation.” On Wednesday, “the state of Kansas and Cherokee County argued in a court filing that the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska should be allowed to intervene in the state’s lawsuit against the Quapaw.” The state claims “their intervention would be beneficial to the case.”

JUDGE REFUSES TO EVICT PICAYUNE FACTION FROM TRIBAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS. The [Courthouse News](#) (7/22, 7K) reports that “a federal judge Tuesday refused to evict a faction of the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians from tribal government buildings, as feuding factions continue to fight over the tribe’s casino.”

ALASKA GETS 30-DAY EXTENSION IN NATIVE LAND CASE. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (7/23, 42K) reports that “after years of legal battles, Alaska tribes scored a major win in 2013 that determined the Interior Department could take land into trust for Alaska Native tribes.” The decision in *Akiakchak v. Department of Interior* “meant the federal government could expand Indian Country throughout Alaska, bringing greater self-governance and access to federal programs for tribes, and it was poised to do so late last year.” However, “the state, under Gov. Bill Walker’s administration, appealed the decision and asked for a six month hold on the case,” and “that hold was set to end on Friday, but last week, the state requested and received an additional 30 days, pushing the case to Aug. 24.”

OAK FLAT LAND GRAB CRITICIZED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (7/23, Johnson, 164K), Dave Johnson, Fellow, Campaign for America’s Future, criticizes a provision in last year’s National Defense Authorization Act “giving more than 2400 acres of land in Arizona’s Tonto National Forest to Resolution Copper.” He writes that “the area is known as Oak Flat and is land that is sacred to the San Carlos Apache Tribe and Yavapai-Apache Nation.” Johnson notes that in “a long and disgraceful history of stealing land from Native Americans,” this is “the first time that sacred Native American land has been stolen to give to a foreign corporation.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR PROVIDES \$500,000 TO HELP VIRGIN ISLANDS PREPARE FOR 2017 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. Additional coverage of the \$500,000 grant awarded to help the Virgin Islands prepare for its centennial celebrations was provided by the [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (7/23, 333) and [Caribbean News Now!](#) (7/23).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS BLAST DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/23, 535K) reports that “a group of environmentalists, Delta farmers and recreational anglers” sent a letter Wednesday “to state and federal officials as part of the public comment” on Delta tunnels plan. They are “challenging revised environmental impact documents released earlier this month as part of a controversial, \$15.5 billion plan to build two massive tunnels in the north Delta to ship the water to pumping stations in the south.” The groups stated, “The direct and obvious way to increase flows through the Delta is to take less water out.”

MONTANA OFFICIALS SAY DAM, BYPASS OFFER BEST CHANCE FOR PALLID STURGEON. The [AP](#) (7/22, 15K) reports that “a \$59 million dam and fish bypass proposed on the Yellowstone River offers the best chance to save an endangered fish population that’s long been blocked from its spawning grounds, a senior Montana official said Wednesday.” According to John Tubbs, director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, “despite some uncertainties over whether the bypass will work, it offers the only near-term option to help the pallid sturgeon recover.” Meanwhile, “environmental groups are seeking to halt construction of the concrete dam through a lawsuit filed in federal court against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE BACKS INTERIOR ON ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DECISION. [Politico Pro](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “a district court sided with the Interior Department on Tuesday in a lawsuit brought by the state of Alaska that sought to extract approval of an oil and gas exploration plan for areas within the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.” Interior had “argued that its power to review and approve a plan for that section of the refuge expired while Ronald Reagan was president.” The District Court of Alaska said that “the relevant statute was ambiguous — Interior’s argument — so the agency should be allowed to interpret meaning.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (7/22, Subscription Publication), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (7/23, 42K), the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (7/22, 15K), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (7/22, 2K), and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (7/23, 128K).

NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION ASKS FOR EXTENSION IN COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [Greenwire](#) (7/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the National Mining Association has asked the Interior Department “for a significant extension of the planned comment period for its proposed stream protection rule.” The group says “the proposal is so extensive – more than 1,000 pages in length – and complicated that groups need at least 180 days to review and comment.” NMA CEO Hal Quinn wrote, “The Office of Surface Mining required more than six years to develop the proposed stream protection regulations announced last week, yet the agency reportedly will allow only 60 days for public review and comment.”

Additional coverage of the rule was provided by [Gilbert \(WV\) Times](#) (7/23), the [Youngstown \(OH\) Daily Legal News](#) (7/23), the [Business Insider](#) (7/22, 2.93M), and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/22, 455K).

ENERGY LEASE TO BE REVIEWED BY HISTORIC PANEL. The [AP](#) (7/23) reports the United States Forest Service “has given an historic advisory council until late September to weigh in on a proposal by a Louisiana company to drill for natural gas near Glacier National park.” In a letter on Tuesday, “Lewis and Clark National Forest Supervisor William Avey said...that he wants recommendations from the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by Sept. 21.” Solenex, LLC, “is seeking to drill on land held sacred by the Blackfoot tribes of Montana and Canada.” Solenex’s “energy lease has been held up for decades while federal officials consider the potential impacts of drilling.”

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/23, 74K), Casey Perkins, a field director for the Montana Wilderness Association, writes about the Blackfoot Nation’s battle against drilling the Badger-Two Medicine. Perkins notes that “since last fall, the effort has grown and attracted supporters, including Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester, the National Congress of American Indians and the rock band Pearl Jam.” Also, “a Change.org petition, asking Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to cancel the leases, has collected thousands of signatures.”

BLM GIVES PRESENTATION ON PROPOSAL TO OPEN UP AREAS TO OIL, GAS EXPLORATION. The [Moapa Valley \(NV\) Progress](#) (7/23) reports that “an audience of about 70 people gathered in the Mesquite City Council on Wednesday to hear, and comment on, a presentation from the Bureau of Land Management officials regarding a proposal to open nearby areas to oil and gas exploration.” Chris Carlton, Field Manager at the BLM Caliente Field Office “explained that the proposal identified 140,389 acres; located in parts of Nye, White Pine and Lincoln County; where drilling had been requested by several private entities.” Carlton said that the BLM is “currently conducting a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposal.”

OIL INDUSTRY: DISPOSAL WELL BAN WOULD BE EXPENSIVE. The [Oklahoman](#) (7/23, Wilmoth, 408K) reports that oil industry groups have complained of the cost of Oklahoma’s proposed moratorium on wastewater injection wells thought to be behind a rash of earthquakes in the state. The Independent Petroleum Association of America released a report claiming that “banning wastewater injections is not an effective solution for Oklahoma’s earthquakes.” There have been over 500 tremors over a 3.0 on the Richter scale so far this year. State Rep. Cory Williams (D-Stillwater) said that “The state of Oklahoma has a duty not only to protect the industry and foster economic development, but also — and more importantly — to protect its resources and citizens. I think right now we are doing one at the expense of the other.”

Offshore Energy Development:

PRESENTATION GIVEN ON SEISMIC BLASTING. The [North Fort Myers \(FL\) Neighbor](#) (7/23, 26K) reports that Erin Handy, climate and energy campaign director of Oceana, “discussed seismic airgun blasting, fracking and oil exploration to those in attendance at the monthly North Fort Myers Civic Association meeting at the rec center on Tuesday.” Handy said, “For marine life, this could mean hearing loss and abandonment of its habitat, which for them is a death sentence. It also means disruption in feeding and mating. Could anyone live a meaningful life if that was happening over your house?”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM AWARDS CONTRACT FOR AERIAL SURVEY FOR DOLL SHEEP IN ALASKA. [The Hill](#) (7/23, Staff, 471K) reports that the BLM "in the Alaska region awarded a \$19,284 contract to Golden Eagle Outfitters, an air taxi company in the state, to help the agency conduct an 'aerial survey for doll sheep.'"

SKINNY DIPPER HOT SPRINGS WILL STAY OPEN FOR NOW. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (7/23, 75K) reports that "no one will be ticketed for using the popular Skinny Dipper Hot Springs east of Banks as long as they respect laws on behavior such as parking and littering, the head of the local Bureau of Land Management office said Tuesday." Four Rivers field office manager Tate Fischer said "he's also working on a response to a proposal to establish a non-profit organization that would manage the hot springs permanently." The article notes that "clean water advocate Growing Change filed the proposal as part of an appeal of Fischer's April decision to close Skinny Dipper."

BLM CREATES PORTABLE WATER RESERVOIRS TO HELP FIREFIGHTERS. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (7/23, 45K) reports that "historic drought conditions over northeast California and northwest Nevada have increased the need to protect important sagebrush habitats," so the BLM has "positioned portable water reservoirs to help firefighters improve response time to wildfires." The BLM's Northern California District has "placed eight temporary water tanks, each holding 18,000 gallons, in strategic locations on public lands in far northwest Nevada and northeast California, including Modoc County." Shawn Compton, a fire operations specialist in the BLM Applegate Field Office headquartered in Alturas, said, "After four years of drought, many of these sources are dry or very limited. Our water tenders, fire engines and helicopters must travel greater distances to refill. We think these tanks have the potential to cut in half these refilling trips. We will be evaluating their effectiveness."

BLM'S PLANS FOR O&C TIMBERLANDS EXPECTED TO BE CONTESTED. [KVAL-TV Eugene, OR](#) (7/23, 69K) reports that the debate over "a new management plan for the often-controversial O & C Timberlands" is "starting to heat up." The BLM is "looking to rewrite its logging and tree conservation policies of the last 20 years." But "both sides of the timber debate are not happy with the new plans."

NEW CAMERAS TO HELP DETECT FIRES IN NEVADA. [KRNVTN-TV Reno, NV](#) (7/23, 2K) reports that "four mountain peaks in Nevada are home to a new real-time camera fire detection system." The BLM has "partnered with the University of Nevada to create technology that they say is helping to protect Nevada's forests and rangelands." Paul Peterson, the State Fire Management Officer for the BLM in Nevada, said, "We started about a year ago and the cameras were implemented in March, April and May of this year and the last camera will be operational at the end of this month."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED POTASH PROJECT. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/23, 549K) reports that the BLM is "seeking public input on a potash project proposed for Millard County." The bureau will "prepare an environmental impact statement for the Sevier Playa potash project planned for BLM and state lands."

BLM TO HOLD HEARING ON WILD HORSE GATHER. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (7/23, 179K) reports that the BLM Billings Field Office has "scheduled a public hearing from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on July 31 regarding the use of motor vehicles in administration of the wild horse and burro act." The bureau will be "using trucks and horse trailers to transport wild horses during the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Herd roundup."

CONGRESS URGED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR BLM TO PROTECT WORLD WAR II DESERT TRAINING CENTER. In an op-ed for the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (7/23, 431), Linda Castro, Desert Field Organizer for the California Wilderness Coalition, writes that the BLM is "charged with managing the public lands on which all of the camps lie" in the World War II Desert Training Center, California-Arizona Maneuver Area, and it has "made a concerted effort to preserve the remaining features, but lack of resources has left the camps vulnerable." However, "the BLM's efforts have become increasingly challenging, as Congress has continued to reduce funding to the Department of Interior (of which the BLM is a component)." Castro argues that "the BLM needs sufficient resources in order to better protect these camps that are such an important part of our state and nation's history."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NEW SPORTSMEN'S BILL TO BE UNVEILED IN HOUSE. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/22, Subscription Publication)

reports that "a bipartisan group of House lawmakers will soon introduce a new sportsmen's package to conserve wildlife habitat and expand land access for hunting and fishing, according to multiple sources close to Capitol Hill." The bill by Rep. Tim Walz, "who co-chairs the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, will reauthorize funding programs backed by a broad spectrum of sportsmen's groups, including the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act." The legislation would "also ensure a small percentage of Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars are used to provide access routes to public lands for sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts."

US REMAINS MAJOR MARKET FOR ILLEGAL IVORY. The [Public Radio International](#) (7/22, 3K) reports that despite efforts to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, "the United States remains a major player in the global market for elephant ivory." Elly Pepper, an expert on the U.S. ivory market at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), says "part of the problem is US ivory laws are confusing and hard to enforce." The article notes that "bipartisan bills before the House and Senate seek to increase the penalties for violating federal law," and "more than 20 states are also considering their own ivory bans."

FWS FORENSICS LAB DEDICATED TO SOLVING CRIMES AGAINST WILDLIFE. [PBS NewsHour](#) (7/23) reports on the FWS Forensics Lab in Ashland, Oregon, "the only one in the world dedicated to solving crimes against all kinds of wildlife." According to the article, "products, parts and whole animals are seized by law enforcement officers and sent to the Ashland lab for analysis." Ken Goddard, the lab's director, said, "Much like any other police crime laboratory, we do two basic things: We identify evidence. In a triangular fashion, we attempt to link suspect, victim and crime scene together with that evidence."

NASHPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTING NEW OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER. The [Zanesville \(OH\) Times Recorder](#) (7/22, 44K) reports that "workers at Nashport Elementary School are constructing a new outdoor learning center at no cost to the district." According to the article, "what began last fall as a plan for a simple open shelter house for outdoor activities has evolved to become an entire ecosystem of natural learning, complete with a walking trail, a patio, a split-rail fence, a wetlands and prairie area, trees, raised-bed gardens, and bird boxes." Molly Dunn, Parent Teacher Organization co-president and project manager, said "the involvement of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was crucial to the rapid development of the project."

FWS CONFIRMS COW KILLED BY WOLF IN WASHINGTON. The [AP](#) (7/23, 2.28M) reports that the FWS says "a young cow whose carcass was found last week in central Washington was killed by a gray wolf." FWS spokeswoman Ann Froschauer says "it's the first confirmed livestock attack within the range the Teanaway wolf pack."

DEAD FISH DISCOVERED IN VENTURA COUNTY DRAINAGE CHANNEL. The [AP](#) (7/23, 2.28M) reports that "crews are working to remove hundreds of dead fish found in a Ventura County drainage channel located on the border of Oxnard and Port Hueneme." According to the article, "officials estimate hundreds of fish were found in the drain including carp, silversides, top smelt, striped mullet and mosquito fish." The county, the FWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are investigating the cause of death.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO PROTECT POLLINATORS FROM PESTICIDES. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/23, Ares, 471K), Natalya Ares, a Food Futures intern for the Food and Technology Program at the Friends of the Earth U.S., writes that she is "frustrated with the Obama administration for not listening to the strong science telling us we must act fast to protect pollinators from pesticides—a leading driver of their decline." According to Ares, "the Obama administration has access to an enormous amount of information that overwhelmingly agrees that neonicotinoid insecticides are harmful to the bees and other pollinators that fuel our ecosystems, food system, and economy." But she notes that "we have to wait until 2017 for the White House to release a more thorough review on neonicotinoids."

EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS OF GAME SPECIMENS CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/23, 471K), Larry Higgins, president of Safari Club International, writes that "many countries welcome the influx of dollars that traveling hunters bring into foreign nations," but "anti-hunting zealots are nonetheless pushing the corporate world to adopt policies that would discourage hunting." He notes that "under pressure from online petitions, several international airlines have recently announced arbitrary decisions to cease the shipment of legally hunted game specimens." Higgins argues that "should these cargo embargos remain in place, fewer hunters will travel to Africa, and those communities will lose critical tourism and conservation revenue."

National Park Service:

HOUSE TO HOLD TWO HEARINGS ON NATIONAL PARKS. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (7/23, 989) reports that “on Thursday the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior will hold a hearing titled, ‘Modernizing the National Park Service Concession Program.’” On the same day, “a second, ‘New and Innovative Ideas for the Next Century of Our National Parks,’ will get under way in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands.”

GROWING GLACIER NATIONAL PARK FIRE FORCES EVACUATIONS. [CNN](#) (7/23, Hetter, 5.17M) reports that “the fire in Glacier National Park in Montana has doubled in size to 4,000 acres and forced new evacuations, according to the automated phone service at the park.” The Reynolds Creek Wildland Fire “started Tuesday afternoon near Grizzly Point on the east side of the park.” On Wednesday, the NPS said “evacuations have been ordered on the west side of St. Mary Lake and evacuations on the east side are expected.” The article notes that “the historic Bering Creek Cabin has been lost to fire.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/23, 2.28M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (7/23, Schachar, 4.07M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/23, Volz), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/23, 2.28M), [Fox News](#) (7/22, 8.91M), the [Huffington Post](#) (7/23, 164K), [USA Today](#) (7/22, Puckett, 4.95M), [US News & World Report](#) (7/22, 811K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (7/23, 962K), [Reuters](#) (7/23, Berg), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/22, 15K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/23, Press).

NPS GRANTS TO BENEFIT VIRGINIA BATTLEFIELDS. The [AP](#) (7/23, Press, 6.76M) reports that “Virginia battlefields are in line for a share of \$1.2 million in National Park Service grants to research, document or interpret hallowed ground.” Ranging from \$20,000 to \$55,000, “the battlefield planning grants exceed more than \$200,000 for Virginia sites.”

SUMMIT FOCUSES ON FLORIDA’S WAR ON INVASIVE SPECIES. The [Miami Herald](#) (7/23, 651K) reports that “on Wednesday, researchers and government agencies gathered in Davie for an annual summit to talk about the latest findings on exotic threats to Florida, from slimy New Guinea flatworms that threaten native snails to the poster snake for invasive species, the Burmese python.” The article notes that “the two-day meeting that continues Thursday is intended to bring together various agencies and researchers wrestling with invasive species to better coordinate work.” Shannon Estenoz, director of Everglades Restoration for the U.S. Department of Interior, said, “You’re chronically under-resourced. The effort is almost taken for granted.”

FIRE ISLAND’S SAILORS HAVEN MARINA TO REOPEN AFTER REPAIRS, UPGRADES. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (7/23, 1.3M) reports that “the marina at Sailors Haven on Fire Island will reopen Friday after months of being closed for superstorm Sandy-related repairs and upgrades.” The article notes that “new electrical service, pedestals for boats to hook up to and a strengthened substructure and decking were part of the \$1 million project funded by the Federal Highway Administration.”

NPS AWARDS RESTORATION GRANT TO BOOTS MOTEL. [KSNF-TV Joplin, MO](#) (7/23) reports that “the Boots Motel and the Best Budget Inn have received grants from the National Park Service.” The article notes that “the grants combined will be more than \$50,000.” The motel will “use the money to put green neon around the building.”

BISON FLIPS WOMAN POSING FOR SELFIE AT YELLOWSTONE. The [AP](#) (7/23, 2.28M) reports that “Yellowstone National Park officials are warning tourists to keep their distance after a bison flipped a woman into the air as she posed for a selfie with the massive beast.” Park officials said “the 43-year-old Mississippi woman turned her back on the animal to get a photo with it near the Fairy Falls trailhead just outside Old Faithful.” The article notes that “the dangerous encounter was the fifth run-in between park-goers and buffalo this year.”

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/23, Miller, 6.76M) and [CNN](#) (7/22, Mullen, 5.17M).

NPS SEEKS MEMBERS FOR STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL. The [Examiner](#) (7/23, 1.34M) reports that the NPS announces that it is seeking nominations for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Advisory Council.

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA PROPERTIES RECEIVE NATIONAL REGISTRATION OF HISTORIC PLACES DESIGNATION. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (7/22, 109K) reports that “a large swath of downtown Topeka — more than 100 properties — received a National Registration of Historic Places designation, opening millions of dollars in tax credit for historic preservation and renovation.” The NPS “approved 118 properties in downtown Topeka as part of three National Register of Historic Places districts.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: THREE SOUTHERN COURTHOUSES DESIGNATED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS. Additional coverage that historic courthouses in New Orleans, Atlanta and Montgomery, Ala. have been named national landmarks was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Daily World](#) (7/22, 4K) and the [Courthouse News](#) (7/22, 7K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAN ON SALES OF BOTTLED WATER AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the ban on sales of bottled water at national parks was provided by the [Government Executive](#) (7/23, 3K).

Top National News:

ADMINISTRATION LOBBIES CONGRESS FOR SUPPORT OF IRAN DEAL. Media reports are casting the Administration's bid to sell the Iran nuclear deal to Congress as an uphill fight. As Administration officials began a series of closed-door briefings on Wednesday with lawmakers, reports also surfaced regarding so-called "side" deals reached between Iran and the IAEA, which are cast as likely to further complicate the Administration's efforts to convince skeptics in Congress. The briefings on the Hill were reported by just one of the networks last night, [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/22, story 7, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M), which said the deal faces "serious obstacles" in Congress.

Secretary of State Kerry and Energy Secretary Moniz also seek to drum up public support for the deal, writing in the [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 6.76M) this morning that it is "the best way to prevent Iran from having a nuclear weapon." If Iran fails to live up to its commitments, they note, "sanctions will snap back into place," and if it "tries to break out of the deal altogether, the world will have a longer time period — a year compared with two months — to respond before it could produce a bomb." Acknowledging that Iran "remains a threat to stability in the Middle East," they argue that "that danger is precisely why this deal is so necessary and why we fought so hard for the multilateral arms embargo to remain in place for five years and the embargo on ballistic missiles for eight." By taking the nuclear threat "off the table, this deal makes it far less complicated to address the many other problems that we have with Iran's regional actions."

The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) says the President "formally began his lobbying campaign in Congress on Wednesday...deploying three cabinet secretaries to the Capitol for classified briefings," before they appear later today in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "in the first open hearing on the agreement." According to the Times, lawmakers "peppered the administration officials with questions on the wisdom of lifting sanctions and the effectiveness of verification procedures under the agreement" during yesterday's briefing, but "most lawmakers praised the presentations as factual and forthright."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (7/23, House, Adams-Heard, 247K) reports that after the "hour-long House session, lawmakers described a question-and-answer period and discussion that some said at times became feisty and testy," and Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry said there was "bipartisan skepticism" about whether Iran will keep its commitments. [Roll Call](#) (7/22, Puglise, 113K) said that both Republicans and Democrats "reported there were plenty of questions still to be answered on the deal — and many minds had not been made up." Majority Leader McCarthy told reporters, "I continue to see more concern on our side and the other side of the aisle."

During yesterday's briefing, the [AP](#) (7/23, Espo, Riechmann) reports, Republicans "forcefully challenged" the deal, and while there were "scattered Democratic concerns, as well," "it was unclear how widespread the opposition was in Obama's own party."

[Politico](#) (7/22, French, 942K) said the President's "flood-the-zone strategy...isn't producing many immediate converts among a bloc of swing Democrats that will be critical to preserving the agreement." However, "many Democrats said in interviews that they felt better about the deal after coming out of" yesterday's briefings. But in a report titled "Uptick In Democratic Support For Iran Deal," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Peterson, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) reports that yesterday's briefings did produce a small increase in support among Democrats, while many key lawmakers remained undecided.

Meanwhile, Bret Baier reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/22, 1.53M) that as the Administration continues to sell the Iran nuclear deal, "there is word tonight of a separate, covert deal between the Islamic Republic and the UN's nuclear team. Two of them, in fact, that are not going to be shared with members of Congress nor with you." James Rosen added Sen. Tom Cotton and Rep. Mike Pompeo "allege officials of the IAEA informed them

in Vienna last week that the UN nuclear watchdog secretly reached two 'side deals' with Iran, one governing access to the military base at Parchin," and the second "dealing with other questions surrounding the nuclear program's possible military dimension." Pompeo said Kerry, "briefing lawmakers on the deal today, acknowledged he himself had not seen the text of the IAEA's separate deals with Iran."

[The Hill](#) (7/22, Hattam, Fabian, 471K) reported that the White House "acknowledged the existence" of the so-called "side" agreements, but National Security Adviser Rice "rejected GOP assertions that there are 'secret' side deals to the Iran pact." Speaking to reporters, Rice said, "We're satisfied with them and we will share the contents of those briefings in full in a classified session with the Congress. So there's nothing in that regard that we know that they won't know." But [The Hill](#) said "that will not be enough to satisfy Republicans in Congress, who are demanding to see the full text" of the agreements. "Failure to produce these two side agreements leaves Congress blind on critical information regarding Iran's potential path to being a nuclear power and will have detrimental consequences for the ability of members to assess the [deal]," Majority Leader McConnell, House Speaker Boehner and "two other GOP lawmakers" wrote in a letter to the President. Boehner, [Reuters](#) (7/23, Nouri, Cowan) reports, remained skeptical, vowing, "We're going to do everything possible to stop it."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/22, Demirjian, 6.76M) says on its website that opponents of the deal have "fixed on" the documents, while "Administration officials have tried to downplay concerns over the issue by explaining that such arrangements are nothing out of the ordinary." State Department spokesman John Kirby said, "Congress has what we have. These kinds of technical arrangements with the IAEA are a matter of standard practice, that they're not release publicly or to other states. But our experts are familiar and comfortable with the contents."

State Department senior adviser Marie Harf, speaking later on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/22, 554K), said, "To be very clear there are no secret deals that the members of the P5+1, including the US, don't have the details of. ... The P5+1 has been briefed on details of the agreements and can brief them to Congress in classified settings, which is what Secretary Kerry did today. So there is no secret deal. There is nothing we are not aware of. Everything we have Congress has."

Kinzinger: Veto-Proof Majority "Close." Rep. Adam Kinzinger, asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/22, 554K) if there is enough congressional opposition to the deal to secure a veto-proof majority, said, "I think we're close. This is really going to be up to the Democrats. This is a bipartisan issue. There's a lot of Democrats that have as much concern as some of us on the Republican side."

Israeli Ambassador Launches Counter-Campaign. The [AP](#) (7/23, Espo, Riechmann) reports that as Administration officials were on the Hill yesterday, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer was meeting "privately with several House Republicans." One participant in the meeting, Rep. Dave Brat, said Dermer's "main point had been to 'pay less attention to all the details' like nuclear centrifuges, and more attention to 'who's on the other side of the ethical debate, and that is Iran.'" The ambassador, [Politico](#) (7/22, French, 942K) reported, met with "40 of the most conservative Republicans in Congress," seeking to "capitaliz[e] on a widespread distrust" of the deal.

Administration officials, the [New York Times](#) (7/23, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports, yesterday "faced counterprogramming from...Dermer, who met with the most conservative House Republicans to urge them to 'leave everything on the field' to derail the accord." The Times says "Dermer's plea — which is widely expected to be followed by a mail, television and radio assault in Democratic districts during the August recess — demonstrates the power that the Israeli government and supportive interest groups in Washington maintain over Congressional Republicans."

[McClatchy](#) (7/23, Cheslow, 28K) reports that Israeli opponents of the deal are "readying a full-court press" to persuade lawmakers to vote against it. McClatchy notes that "one Israeli think tank at the center of the campaign is the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, whose largest donor is US casino magnate and Republican benefactor Sheldon Adelson."

Iranian Hard-Liners Question Inspection Provisions. [McClatchy](#) (7/23, Gutman, 28K) reports that as Congress "kicks off a contentious debate" over the deal, "hardliners in the Iranian political system are gearing up for a battle of their own, targeting a key verification provision that they hope to defeat in an open parliamentary vote." Hamid-Reza Taraghi, the international affairs spokesman for the Islamic Coalition party, vowed, "We will not allow spies for the US and Israel to come here to gain any more from our military sites."

But the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/23, Richter, Mostaghim, 4.07M) reports that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said this week that Tehran "can deny nuclear inspectors access to its military sites under the terms of the

agreement worked out this month in Vienna...raising new questions about Tehran's commitment to the terms of the agreement." Iran, he said, made access to military sites a "red line," and had "fully achieved" those terms in the negotiations.

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (7/23, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports the Administration's claim that the deal "provides for airtight verification procedures is coming under challenge from nuclear experts" as well. While Energy Secretary Moniz "has insisted that Iran would not be able to hide traces of illicit nuclear work before inspectors gained access to a suspicious site...several experts," including former IAEA deputy director Olli Heinonen, "said a provision that gives Iran up to 24 days to grant access to inspectors might enable it to escape detection."

But Moniz, [Politico](#) (7/22, Dixon, 942K) reported, "said for the first time Wednesday that the Obama administration has experimental proof to allay" fears that the provision would allow the Iranians "ample time to hide certain violations" from inspectors. In an interview with Politico, Moniz said, "It is essentially impossible, certainly with confidence, to believe that you're going to do this kind of work with nuclear materials and be confident at having it cleaned it up." He added that the experiments involved "very limited quantities" of uranium, and that DOE "unsuccessfully probed the limits of trying to clean it up." DOE, however, "declined Wednesday evening to provide more details about the experiments."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) editorial also criticizes the inspection provisions, which it argues are based on the assumption that Iran will adhere to them.

Kerry Says US Working "Very Hard" To Secure Rezaian's Release As Washington Post Files UN Petition. Elise Labott reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/22, 554K) that on Wednesday, the Washington Post and the family of reporter Jason Rezaian, who has been held in Iran on spy charges for a year, appealed to the UN to step in to secure his release. Meanwhile, the President is "under fire for striking the deal while Rezaian and two other Americans are still being held, [and] a fourth American [is] missing." Labott added that an adviser to the Rezaian family said "he believes Secretary Kerry may have missed a window opportunity to secure the Americans' released before the deal was announced."

Richard Engel noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/22, story 7, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M) that Secretary of State Kerry was asked by reporters about Rezaian yesterday. Kerry said, "We are working very hard on him." Engel added that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi suggested "there could be some progress on this issue if and when a deal is finalized." Araghchi, the [AP](#) (7/23) reports, confirmed that Iranian diplomats discussed the case of the four Americans on the sidelines of negotiations in Vienna earlier this month.

State Department senior adviser Marie Harf said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/22, 554K), "We believe they should have been released a long time ago. We are pushing it in every single meeting. Every single meeting we have, Secretary Kerry raises it. Wendy Sherman raises it." Asked if there is any cause for optimism, Harf said, "We are not going to be optimistic. I would never use that word until the Americans are home with their families."

[USA Today](#) (7/23, Dorell, 4.95M) notes that Wednesday marked the first anniversary of Rezaian's arrest, and the [New York Times](#) (7/23, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that the Washington Post "sought to raise pressure on Iran's government" by "filing an urgent petition with a United Nations human-rights panel to seek his immediate release." In a statement, the Post said its petition, submitted to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, accused Iran of "numerous violations of international law" in their imprisonment and treatment of Rezaian. The [AP](#) (7/23, Flaherty) reports the UN "usually give[s] the country involved 60 days to respond, although the group also has an 'urgent action' procedure intended to speed up the process," but it was "not known if that would be applied in this case."

Also reporting on the petition this morning are the [Washington Post](#) (7/23, A1, Warrick, 6.76M) and [USA Today](#) (7/23, Balakrishnan, 4.95M), among others, and the [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 6.76M) says in an editorial that it hopes the response to its petition "will be swift. But what's most needed is action in Tehran."

Carter: Saudis Support Deal But Have Some Doubts. The [AP](#) (7/23, Burns) reports Defense Secretary Carter said Wednesday during a trip to Saudi Arabia that "King Salman and his defense minister support the Iran nuclear deal but have doubts about how effectively" it "will be enforced." Said Carter, "They both – the king and the minister of defense – reiterated their support" for the deal, adding that "the only reservations we discussed were ones that we clearly share, namely that we attend to verification of the agreement as it's implemented," and the use of a "snap-back" mechanism for quickly re-imposing sanctions. The AP says that "judging from Carter's comments," the Saudis "appear to have reconciled themselves to the Iran deal."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Ryan, 6.76M) reports that "US officials said King Salman voiced solid support for the Iran agreement in his talks with Carter," but said it "must be accompanied by a strong inspections program and measures to put sanctions back in place should Iran violate its terms."

The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) says Carter "gave a surprisingly upbeat assessment...asserting that the kingdom welcomed" the deal. Defense officials also "said they welcomed the Saudi restraint about publicly criticizing the Iran nuclear deal, in sharp contrast to the reaction from officials in Israel," where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it a "historic mistake." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Entous, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) notes that Saudi officials didn't comment on the meeting with Carter, who also announced that King Salman will meet with President Obama when he visits the US in September, [Reuters](#) (7/23, Stewart) reports.

Romney: Nuclear Deal A "Calamity." Mitt Romney writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) that the deal represents a calamity that future generations of Americans will suffer because Iran will inevitably acquire a nuclear weapon.

OBAMA CALLS ON CONGRESS TO RENEW EX-IM BANK. Coverage of the President's comments on the Export-Import Bank is very light. The network news broadcasts did not cover the remarks, which he made after a meeting of 10 small and medium-size businesses that use the bank's help to export goods, and there is limited print and online coverage. The coverage generally cast the President's comments as an admonition of Congress, which allowed the bank's charter to expire at the end of June, noting that he argued lawmakers' failure to renew the charter is hurting American businesses.

The [AP](#) (7/23, Ledeman, Wemer) says the President "chid[ed] Congress in no uncertain terms," warning that "American businesses are suffering while the Export-Import Bank lapses." The President argued that it is "a 'shame' that the bank had been allowed to expire," adding that "the lapse puts the US at a disadvantage because 'every other advanced country has a program like this' to promote its exports." [Voice of America](#) (7/23, Randle, 32K) reported that the President said that by allowing the charter to expire, Congress "was hurting American exporters."

[TIME](#) (7/23, Rhodan, 19.82M) reported that the President said, "This should be a no-brainer. ... The Export-Import Bank makes money for the US government. I just want to be clear about this: This is not a situation in which taxpayers are subsidizing these companies." [Reuters](#) (7/23, Rampton) says he called on Congress to renew the charter before it leaves for its August break.

[USA Today](#) (7/23, Jackson, 4.95M) reports that while "some congressional Republicans described the bank as corporate welfare that benefits big corporations at the expense of US taxpayers," congressional leaders "are working to re-authorize the bank before the August congressional recess." The President argued that although large companies "do benefit from the bank," smaller ones do as well, noting that "his guests at the White House included the owner of a business that makes specialized organic coffee and another that makes quiche."

US CHARGES ROOF WITH FEDERAL HATE CRIMES. The announcement by Attorney General Lynch of federal charges against alleged Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof generated nearly four minutes of coverage on network newscasts, although none of the networks led their newscast with the story. Coverage generally focused on the possibility the federal prosecutors might seek the death penalty against Roof.

[ABC World News](#) (7/22, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Roof is "now facing federal hate crime charges" which make him "eligible for the death penalty." A federal grand jury found "proof that he was motivated by racial hatred and purposely chose that church in order to, quote, 'in order to make his attack more notorious.'"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/22, story 4, 1:25, Rose, 5.08M) reported that the indictment "says he was carrying eight magazines with hollow-point bullets." Attorney General Lynch is quoted saying, "Racially motivated violence such as this is the original domestic terrorism." CBS (Crawford) added that Lynch, in announcing the 33-count indictment against Roof, "says he targeted his victims solely because of their race." Lynch: "And we think this is exactly the type of case that the Federal hate crimes statute were, in fact, conceived of to cover."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/22, story 2, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) reported that the indictment charges Roof with "federal hate crimes, firearms violations, and obstructing religious practices." NBC (Welker) noted that Roof "already faced nine counts of murder filed by the state of South Carolina." The June 17 shooting "reignited a national conversation about race, prompting South Carolina's legislature to remove the confederate battle flag from the

capitol grounds." NBC noted that South Carolina "doesn't have a hate crime statute, which is one reason the Federal government took the rare step of bringing its own hate crimes charges."

The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports that Roof "was also charged with killing someone while obstructing religious freedom." The Times notes that it was "not immediately clear" how the federal indictment "would affect the state prosecution." The Justice Department "has the option to delay its case and wait to see how the state case ends before deciding whether to proceed with a second trial." The Times also points out that under federal law, "a hate crime does not, by itself, carry a possible death sentence." The [AP](#) (7/23, Tucker, Kinnard) reports that Federal prosecutors have not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty against Roof, but "in mounting a federal case, Justice Department prosecutors made clear that they consider the killings rooted in racial hatred and the type of attack that their hate-crime statutes are designed to cover."

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (7/23, 365K) reports that the indictment alleged that Roof carried out "one of the deadliest racially motivated hate crimes since the Civil Rights era by targeting the 12 black people, including three survivors, and prevented them from freely exercising their religion." The "sweeping" indictment was "dubbed by legal scholars as unprecedented in modern American history." Lynch said "input from the victims' families" would "play prominently into" whether prosecutors would seek the death penalty.

[USA Today](#) (7/23, Johnson, 4.95M) reports that Lynch "suggested that federal investigators had gathered evidence that Roof's alleged plan of assault specifically included the iconic church because of its meaning to African Americans," but she declined "to detail the extent of the government's evidence." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/23, Phelps, 4.07M) reports that Lynch said Roof "was not charged with terrorism because there is no domestic terrorism statute that would apply." She "declined to say whether she thought there should be one."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*On Retirement, What's Good For California Could Be Good For The Country.*" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/23, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) says Congress "has foolishly refused to act on President Obama's plan to enroll new workers automatically in individual retirement accounts." With "Congress blocking progress," according to the Times, the Labor Department "should give the states all the help they need, and fast" to help "put into effect state-run retirement plans for workers who do not have employer-provided benefits."

"Russia's Empty Gesture On The Downed Malaysian Jet." The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) editorializes that Russia's request for the UN Security Council to become more active in the investigation of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine is not the "accommodating gesture" that it may seem. The Times says "the real goal of the draft Resolution Russia proposed...is to thwart a Dutch-led criminal investigation...and a Western call for a United Nations-backed tribunal."

"A City For The Poor, Rich And In Between." A [New York Times](#) (7/23, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) editorial.

WASHINGTON POST. "*Sandra Bland's Death.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 6.76M) says Sandra Bland "shouldn't have died in jail — because she never should have been in that cell to begin with." The dashcam video "shows that the encounter that led to her arrest and charging spiraled out of control, in large part because of the arresting officer's confrontational behavior."

"Jason Rezaian's Unjust Year Of Detention In Iran." The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 6.76M) says in an editorial that it hopes the response to its petition to the UN to seek the immediate release of reporter Jason Rezaian, who is being held in Iran, "will be swift. But what's most needed is action in Tehran."

"Help For Domestic Abuse Victims." A [Washington Post](#) (7/23, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*The Iranian Inspections Mirage.*" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) editorial criticizes inspection provisions in the Iran nuclear agreement arguing they are based on the assumption that Iran will adhere to them.

"A Texas Teaching Moment." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) backs Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's appointment of a mother who home-schooled her three children to chair the

Texas Board of Education. The Journal says that entrenched education interests oppose the move, but points out that the position is the head of all education in the state, not just public schools.

“Uber 1, Progressives 0.” A Wall Street Journal (7/23, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) editorial.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

- [Anthem Nears Deal To Buy Cigna](#)
- [Pentagon Prepares To Send Better Radar To Ukraine](#)
- [Giant Fund Flips View On China: Steer Clear](#)
- [How A Chinese Company Slipped On Canada’s Oil Sands](#)

New York Times:

- [China Targets Rights Lawyers In Crackdown](#)
- [New York State Acts To Mandate \\$15 Minimum Pay](#)
- [Casualties Up, Afghan Forces Try To Hang On](#)
- [Pieces Of The Quran Perhaps As Old As The Faith](#)
- [New Jersey Commuter Chaos As Train Tunnels Deteriorate](#)
- [Dispute Over Woman’s Mental State Follows Death In A Texas Jail](#)

Washington Post:

- [District Likely To Vote On \\$15 Wage](#)
- [Democrats Struggling To Connect With Black Activists](#)
- [Post Seeks UN’s Help In Release Of Reporter](#)
- [Where Heaven Touches Earth](#)
- [Hacks On The Highway](#)

Financial Times:

- [Alzheimer’s Breakthrough Hopes Add To Promise Of Pharma Revival](#)
- [Eurozone Borrowing Hits Record Level As Economic Recovery Remains Weak](#)

Washington Times:

- [Obama Aides Deny GOP Accusations Of Secret UN Side Deals With Iran](#)
- [Hillary Clinton, Upstaged By Bernie Sanders And Other Democratic Rivals, Slides In Polls](#)
- [Navy’s Best Brain Power Is Lost At Sea, Scholars Warn](#)
- [Hillary Clinton, Democrats Mum As Planned Parenthood Videos Ignite Furor](#)
- [Patriot Park, Vladimir Putin’s ‘Military Disneyland,’ Caters To Russia’s Martial Mood](#)
- [Mitch McConnell: Need To Get Our Highway Bill Over The House](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Sandra Bland Death-Dash Cam Video; New Jersey-Warehouse Fire; Severe Weather; Montana-Glacier National Park Wildfire; Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship Fire; Chattanooga Shootings; Charleston Shooter-Hate Crime Charges; Laser Strikes; 2016 Presidential Race; Medicaid Payments Report; Street Car Accidents; Alzheimer’s Drugs.

CBS: Sandra Bland Death-Dash Cam Video; Dash Cam Video Analysis; Chattanooga Shootings-Survivors Interviewed; Charleston Shooter-Hate Crime Charges; Vietnam War Veterans-PTSD Study; Trump-Graham Feud; California Gas Prices; New Jersey-Warehouse Fire; Vehicle Computer System Flaws; Laser Strikes.

NBC: Sandra Bland Death-Dash Cam Video; Charleston Shooter-Hate Crime Charges; Chattanooga Shootings; New Jersey-Warehouse Fire; Trump FEC Financial Disclosure; Guantanamo Bay Plans; Iran-American Detainees; Laser Strikes Arrest; United Airlines Flight Emergency Landing; IKEA Warning.

Network TV At A Glance:

- Sandra Bland Death-Dash Cam Video – 11 minutes, 15 seconds
- Chattanooga Shootings – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
- Charleston Shooter-Hate Crime Charges – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
- New Jersey-Warehouse Fire – 3 minutes, 30 seconds
- 2016 Presidential Race – 2 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump To Visit US-Mexican Border; NYC-Anti-Iran Deal Protests; Washington-Blue Creek Fire; California Wildfires; Wall Street.
CBS: Bill Cosby Scandal; Sandra Bland Death Investigation; Sandra Bland Death-Dash Cam Video; Congress-Iran Nuclear Deal Hearings; Greece-Economic Reforms Approved; Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship Fire.
FOX: Trump FEC Financial Disclosure; Montana-Glacier National Park Wildfire; New Jersey-Warehouse Fire; NY Labor Board Recommends Minimum Wage Hike; Bill Cosby Sued; Appeals Court Vacates Some Blagojevich Convictions; Anthem-Cigna Deal.
NPR: Chattanooga Shootings Investigation; Obama-Export-Import Bank Comments; NASA-Soyuz Spacecraft Lifts Off; Laser Strikes; Wall Street; VA Budget Shortfall Announced; NY Labor Board Recommends Minimum Wage Hike.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President will attend meetings at the White House. In the evening, the President will travel to Nairobi, Kenya.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Travels to the San Francisco Bay Area to visit the Theranos manufacturing facility in Newark, California. The Vice President's remarks are open press.

MICHELLE OBAMA — As part of her Reach Higher initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama will welcome more than 130 college-bound students from across the country to participate in the 2015 Beating the Odds Summit.
US Senate: LGBT NON-DISCRIMINATION BILL — 12 p.m. Members of the US Congress will gather with advocacy leaders and LGBT Americans to announce the introduction of historic legislation to ban discrimination against LGBT individuals in federal law. The Equality Act of 2015 would outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, and other areas of law where discrimination is already prohibited for other protected classes. Location: Lyndon B. Johnson room (S-211). Contacts: Rich Luchette (Rep. David Cicilline), 202-225-4911. Notes: RSVP required.

'COOL' LEGISLATION — 2 p.m. Senators John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) will hold a news conference to announce their Voluntary Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and Trade Enhancement Act of 2015. Location: Senate Radio and TV Gallery. Contacts: Ben Famous (Sen. Stabenow), 202-224-5466. Don Canton (Sen. Hoeven), 202-224-2551

SEN. MURKOWSKI – PEN AND PAD — 2 p.m. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, will hold a pen-and-pad session on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. The on-the-record pen and pad will be held in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee room. Location: 366 Dirksen. Contacts: Robert Dillon, 202-224-6977. Notes: RSVP: Michael_Tadeo@energy.senate.gov.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARMED SERVICES — 9:30 a.m. Full committee hearing to consider the nomination of Lieutenant General Robert B. Neller, USMC, to be general and Commandant of the Marine Corps. <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/15-07-23-nomination>. Location: 216 Hart.

BANKING, HOUSING, URBAN AFFAIRS — 9:30 a.m. Hearings to examine measuring the systemic importance of United States bank holding companies. Panel 1: Professor Robert DeYoung, Capitol Federal Professor in Financial Markets and Institutions University of Kansas School of Business; Professor Deborah Lucas, Sloan Distinguished Professor of Finance and Director MIT Center for Finance and Policy, Sloan School of Management; Professor Jonathan R. Macey, Sam Harris Professor of Corporate Law, Corporate Finance, and Securities Law, Yale Law School; Michael S. Barr, Roy F. and Jean Humphrey Proffitt Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School. http://www.banking.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=7372638e-839c-47ea-b814-219905b57ff2. Location: 538 Dirksen.

FINANCE — 10 a.m. Nominations of Marisa Lago, of New York, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, W. Thomas Reeder, Jr., of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension

Benefit Guaranty Corporation. <http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=f77c3a58-5056-a055-6403-5052611867df>. Location: 215 Dirksen.

FOREIGN RELATIONS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine Iran nuclear agreement review. Witnesses: John F. Kerry, Secretary Of State, US Department of State; Ernest Moniz, Secretary, US Department of Energy; Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew. <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/072315>. Location: G50 Dirksen.

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine health information technology, focusing on information blocking and potential solutions. Panel one: David C. Kendrick, MD, MPH, Chair, Department Of Medical Informatics, University Of Oklahoma, CEO, MyHealth Access Network, Tulsa , OK; Michael J. Mirro, MD, FACC, FAHA, FACP, Past Chair, Medical Informatics Committee, American College Of Cardiology, Chief Academic / Research Officer, Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation, Fort Wayne , IN; David C. Kibbe, MD MBA, President And CEO, DirectTrust, Senior Advisor, American Academy of Family Physicians, Washington , DC; Paul M. Black, MBA, President, Chief Executive Officer And Director, Allscripts, Chicago , IL. <http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/achieving-the-promise-of-health-information-technology-information-blocking-and-potential-solutions>. Location: 430 Dirksen.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS — 10 a.m. Hearings to examine the nomination of Denise Turner Roth, of North Carolina, to be Administrator of General Services, General Services Administration. Nominee will be present. <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/nomination-of-denise-t-roth-to-be-administrator-us-general-services-administration>. Location: 342 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Business meeting to consider S.1169, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/executive-business-meeting-07-23-15>. Location: 226 Dirksen.

APPROPRIATIONS — 10:30 a.m. Markup of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2016. <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings>. Location: 106 Dirksen.

JUDICIARY — 2 p.m. The Administrative State v. The Constitution: Dodd-Frank at Five Years. <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/the-administrative-state-v-the-constitution-dodd-frank-at-five-years>. Location: 226 Dirksen.

INTELLIGENCE — 2:30 p.m. Closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. <http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings/closed-briefing-intelligence-matters-51>. Location: 219 Hart.

US House: 10 a.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. First votes expected: 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. Last votes expected: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

WOMEN AT THE PEACE TABLE — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) present the inaugural event of a bi-monthly “Women, Peace and Security” breakfast series. The series will explore current issues affecting women and girls in conflict and illuminate their determination and leadership to find peace. Each conversation will be framed in the context of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the US Government’s National Action Plan on 1325. Location: B-340 Rayburn. Notes: http://donate.ifes.org/p/salsa/event/common/public/index.sjs?event_KEY=3850&tag=women-at-the-peace-table-topic-1

NEW OVERTIME RULE — 9:30 a.m. Committee on Education & the Workforce Ranking Member Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA-03) will hold a media availability to voice his support of the new overtime rule proposed by the Department of Labor (DOL). Location: 2456 Rayburn. Notes: Media interested in attending this event should RSVP to Brynn Freeland at Brynn.freeland@mail.house.gov.

INFRASTRUCTURE GAME CHANGERS — 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Congressional briefing and media release of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ new report, “Infrastructure Game Changers,” which explores trends in energy, water, freight, and transportation that are modernizing infrastructure for the coming decades. With Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, (DC-D); Congressman Lou Barletta (PA-R); The American Society of Civil Engineers; Thomas W. Smith III, Executive Director, ASCE; Casey Dinges, Senior Managing Director of Public Affairs, Membership and Marketing, ASCE; Carlton Ray, Director of Clean Rivers Project, DC Water; Richard D. Cameron, Managing Director of Planning and Environmental Compliance, Port of Long Beach; Jalal Mapar, Resilient Systems Director at US Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate. Location: B-338 Rayburn. Notes: RSVP: govwash@asce.org

DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI — 10:45 a.m. Weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. Contacts: Drew Hammill, 202-226-7616

SPEAKER BOEHNER — 11:30 a.m. On-camera press briefing. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114. Contacts: Kevin Smith, Cory Fritz, 202-225-0600.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 9 a.m. Subcommittee on the Interior hearing on Modernizing the National Park Service Concession Program. <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/modernizing-the-national-park-service-concession-program/> Location: 2154 Rayburn.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE — 9 a.m. Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture hearing on Ongoing Intelligence Activities Closed. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103784>. Location: HVC-304 The Capitol.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE — 10 a.m. Hearing on "Examining the Costs and Consequences of the Administrations Overtime Proposal". <http://edworkforce.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399162>. Location: 2175 Rayburn.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health markup of pending legislation. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103818>. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FINANCIAL SERVICES — 10 a.m. Full Committee, "Ending 'Too Big to Fail': What is the Proper Role of Capital and Liquidity?" Witnesses: Dr. Charles W. Calomiris, Professor, Henry Kaufman Professor of Financial Institutions, Columbia University Graduate School of Business; Dr. Sujit "Bob" Chakravorti, Managing Director and Chief Economist, The Clearing House; Dr. Norbert J. Michel, Research Fellow in Financial Regulations, Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation; Dr. John E. Parsons, Senior Lecturer, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. <http://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399374>. Location: 2128 Rayburn.

HOMELAND SECURITY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Transportation Security hearing on Markup of H.R. 3102 the Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015; A Committee Print H.R. ___ the Transportation Security Administration Reform and Improvement Act of 2015; and H.R. 3144, the Partners for Aviation Security Act. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103801>. Location: 311 Cannon.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security hearing on Sanctuary Cities: a Threat to Public Safety. Witnesses: Jim Steinle Father of Kathryn Steinle, Pleasanton, California; Scott Jones, Sheriff, Sacramento County, California; . Jessica Vaughan, Director of Policy Studies, Center for Immigration Studies; Richard Biehl, Chief of Police, Dayton Police Department, Dayton, Ohio. <http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/hearings?ID=C7F75319-48C2-4B8E-8668-00B27E229D7B>. Location: 2141 Rayburn. Notes: There is also a business meeting scheduled by the same subcommittee, then the hearing.

JUDICIARY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security Business Meeting: Request Department of Homeland Security Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 422 for the relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic; and H.R. 396 for the relief of Maria Carmen Castro Ramirez and J. Refugio Carreno Rojas. <http://www.house.gov/legislative/date/2015-07-23>. Location: 2141 Rayburn.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Federal Lands will convene an oversight hearing titled, "New and Innovative Ideas for the Next Century of Our National Parks." Panel 1: Jim Fram, President and CEO, Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, Hot Springs, Arkansas; Craig Obey, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, National Parks Conservation Association; Derrick A. Crandall, Counselor, National Park Hospitality Association; John L. Nau, Vice Chairman (2012 – 2013), National Park Foundation, Houston, Texas. <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399075>. Location: 1324 Longworth.

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Energy and Subcommittee on Oversight joint hearing, "The EPA Renewable Fuel Standard Mandate." Location: 2318 Rayburn.

SMALL BUSINESS — 10 a.m. Subcommittee on Health and Technology, "Modern Tools in a Modern World: How App Technology is Benefitting Small Businesses." Witnesses: Morgan Reed, Executive Director, ACT 5/8 The App Association; Patricia G. Greene, Ph.D, Paul T. Babson Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies, Babson

College, Babson Park, MA; David Barrett, CEO, Expensify, San Francisco, CA. Location: 2360 Rayburn.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE — 10 a.m. Markup of General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; H.R. 2954 – To designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House; S. 261 – A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse; H.R. 3114 – To provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes. <http://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399239>. Location: 2167 Rayburn.

WAYS AND MEANS — 10 a.m. Oversight Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Internal Revenue Service's audit selection process and internal controls within the Tax Exempt and Government Entities division. Location: 1100 Longworth.

NATURAL RESOURCES — 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans hearing on Legislative Hearing on H.R. 564, H.R. 1772, H.R. 2168. <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=399077>. Location: 1334 Longworth.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE — 1 p.m. Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade markup of pending legislation: HR. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015; H.R. _____, the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act of 2015; HR. _____, the E-Warranty Act of 2015. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103822>. Location: 2123 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific hearing on Americas Security Role in the South China Sea. Witnesses: Patrick M. Cronin, Ph.D. Senior Advisor and Senior Director, Asia-Pacific Security Program, Center for a New American Security; Andrew S. Erickson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, China Maritime Studies Institute, US Naval War College; Mira Rapp Hooper, Ph.D., Fellow, Asia Program, Director, Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, Center for Strategic & International Studies; Michael D. Swaine, Ph.D., Senior Associate, Asia Program, Camegie Endowment for International Peace. <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-america-s-security-role-south-china-sea>. Location: 2172 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats hearing on The Threat of Islamist Extremism: Possible US-Russia Cooperation? Witnesses: Leon Aron, Ph.D., Resident Scholar and Director of Russian Studies, The American Enterprise Institute; Thomas Graham, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University. <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-threat-islamist-extremism-possible-us-russia-cooperation>. Location: 2255 Rayburn.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS — 2 p.m. Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere hearing on Pursuing North American Energy Independence: Mexico's Energy Reforms. Witnesses: Carlos Pascual, Senior Vice President, IHS Inc., (Former US Ambassador to Mexico); Thomas Tunstall, Ph.D., Research Director, The University of Texas at San Antonio Institute for Economic Development; Tony Payan, Ph.D., Director, Mexico Center, Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University; Eric Farnsworth, Vice President, Council of the Americas and Americas Society. <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-pursuing-north-american-energy-independence-mexico-s-energy-reforms>. Location: 2200 Rayburn.

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — 2 p.m. Hearing on Export-Import Bank Update. <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/export-import-bank-update/> Location: 2154 Rayburn.

Other: ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE — July 18 – 23. International investigators, clinicians and care providers gather to share the latest study results, theories and discoveries. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW. Contacts: aaicmedia@alz.org, 312-335-4078. On the Net: <http://www.alz.org/aaic/>

CHEMICAL SECTOR SECURITY SUMMIT — July 21 – 23. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Chemical Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) are co-hosting the annual Chemical Sector Security Summit. As in previous years, the Summit will feature information vital for chemical security and will bring together key government and industry stakeholders with a shared mission and vision to enhance chemical security. Highlights: 1 p.m. NPPD IP Assistant Secretary Caitlin Durkovich will deliver closing remarks on efforts to enhance our nations chemical security. Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA. On the Net: <http://www.dhs.gov/chemical-sector-security-summit>.

CSIS – ENERGY FOR ALLIES – CORNYN — 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The Center for Strategic and International Studies presents “Energy for Our Allies: Harnessing the Power of American Energy to Strengthen Our Allies and Deter Our Enemies.” A keynote address by, and discussion with Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), Majority Whip. Introductory remarks by Dr. John J. Hamre, President, CEO, and the Pritzker Chair, CSIS. Moderated by Frank A. Verrastro, Senior Vice President and James R. Schlesinger Chair for Energy & Geopolitics, CSIS. Location: CSIS 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW. Notes: If you have any questions please contact Besama Alghussein at: (Balghussein@csis.org) or (202) 775-3167.

WILSON CENTER – IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL — 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. The Iran Nuclear Deal: Pitfalls and Promises. Doyle McManus, Moderator, Washington Columnist, Los Angeles Times; Olli Heinonen, Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, Former Deputy Director General and Head of Department of Safeguards, International Atomic Energy Agency; Elizabeth Rosenberg, Senior Fellow and Director of the Energy, Economics and Security Program, Center for a New American Security, Former Senior Sanctions Advisor at the US Treasury Department; Robin Wright, Joint Fellow, US Institute of Peace and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Author and Journalist, recently returned from Iran for The New Yorker; Joe Cirincione, President, Ploughshares Fund, Former Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee. <http://wilsoncenter.org/event/the-iran-nuclear-deal-pitfalls-and-promises>. Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, 6th Floor, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

IMF BRIEFING — 9:30 a.m. Regular press briefing by Gerry Rice, Director, IMF Communications Department. Journalists should enter through the IMF entrance, 720 19th St. NW, Washington, DC. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a valid photo ID and allow a few minutes to clear through security and wait to be escorted to HQ1-01-620A. Contacts: media@imf.org (202 623 7100)

DISABILITY HIRING — 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. US Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and Rep. Don Beyer head to McLean, Virginia, to discuss new rules under Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act and highlight best workplace practices to accommodate people with disabilities. Perez and Beyer will tour the Northrop Grumman facility and meet with workers to learn about company’s efforts around disability hiring and employment. Location: Northrop Grumman Corporation, Information Systems Sector Headquarters, 7575 Colshire Drive, McLean, VA. Contacts: Mattie Munoz Zazueta, zazueta.matilde.m@dol.gov, 202-693-4675

EEOC – ADA ANNIVERSARY — 10 a.m. The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) will commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) jointly with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) at an event at DOJ headquarters. Keynote speakers will include EEOC Commissioner Chai Feldblum, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, former Senators Bob Dole and Tom Harkin, and Representative Steny Hoyer. Location: Department of Justice headquarters. Contacts: Kimberly Smith-Brown, newsroom@eeoc.gov, 202-663-4191. Notes: http://www.ada.gov/ada_25th_anniversary/25th_event_livevideo.html

JUSTICE DEPT – ADA ANNIVERSARY — 10 a.m. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta of the Civil Rights Division and US Attorney Steven M. Dettelbach of the Northern District of Ohio will deliver remarks at an event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Location: Department of Justice, Great Hall, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Contacts: Public Affairs, 202-514-2007.

DODD-FRANK – MARTIN O’MALLEY — 11 a.m. Governor O’Malley will be participating in a discussion about the urgent need for additional Wall Street reforms with former Congressman & House Finance Committee Member Brad Miller (D-NC). Following the discussion, Governor O’Malley will take questions from press in attendance. Location: Truman Center for National Policy, 1250 I St. NW. Contacts: RSVP to cgriffeth@martinomalley.com. Haley Morris, 301-221-5005. Notes: To attend this event, please RSVP to cgriffeth@martinomalley.com. (Note: This event has been moved from the National Press Club.)

NASA – KEPLER DISCOVERIES — 12 p.m. NASA will host a news teleconference to announce new discoveries made by its planet-hunting mission, the Kepler Space Telescope. John Grunsfeld, associate administrator for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington; Jon Jenkins, Kepler data analysis lead at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California; Jeff Coughlin, Kepler research scientist at SETI Institute in Mountain View, California; Didier Queloz, professor of astrophysics at Cambridge University, United Kingdom. Notes: For dial-in information, media should e-mail their name, affiliation and telephone number to Felicia Chou at felicia.chou@nasa.gov no later than 10 a.m. Thursday. Questions can be submitted on Twitter during the teleconference using the hashtag askNASA.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING – NEW \$10 NOTE — 1 p.m. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew participates in discussion on the New \$10 Note at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's Bring Our Children To Work Day. Location: Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Annex Building Auditorium, 14th and C Streets SW. Notes: This event is open press however the deadline to RSVP has passed. If you have any questions, please contact Lydia Washington directly at (202) 874-3487.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS — 1 p.m. Five Members of Congress who led Democratic opposition to Fast Track Authority hold a press call ahead of the next round of Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, which begin Friday. Participants: Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT); Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY); Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA); Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX); Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI). DIAL IN: 800-875-3456; Access Code: SAND72088. Contacts: Miranda Margowsky (Becerra) 202-225-1400. Carrie Adams (Slaughter) 202-225-2888. Sara Lonardo (DeLauro) 202-225-3661. Hannah Smith (Dingell) 202-225-4071. Leslie Tisdale (Doggett) 202-225-4865.

ABA WORKSHOP – CRUDEN — 1:15 p.m. Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden of the Environment and Natural Resources Division will deliver remarks on the divisions 2015 law enforcement achievements at the American Bar Association Environmental Litigation Subcommittees regional workshop. Location: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, 2020 K Street, NW, 11th Floor. Notes: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. as well as valid media credentials. Press logistics questions: Anthony Juarez at Anthony. Juarez@usdoj.gov or 202-514-2007.

ERNEST ORLANDO LAWRENCE AWARDS — 4 p.m. US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz will present the 2014 Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award to nine mid-career scientists and engineers who have advanced new research and scientific discovery. Secretary Moniz will be joined by Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Under Secretary for Science and Energy Franklin (Lynn) Orr, Acting Director of the Office of Science Patricia M. Dehmer, Principal Deputy Administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration Madelyn Creedon, and Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy John Kotek in honoring this year's awardees. Location: US Department of Energy, Main Auditorium, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW. Contacts: n/a, 202-586-4940. Notes: RSVP to rsvp@hq.doe.gov.

AFCEA BETHESDA DINNER — 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. The 8th Annual Senior Government Executive Dinner. DHS Office of the Chief Information Officer Chief of Staff Barbara Whitelaw will deliver remarks on the future of information technology in the federal government. Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St. NW. Notes: <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=YOUN44E&TID=%2bohXQpn7qrwbarj%2bZADmEA%3d%3d>

FEDERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – WHITELAW — 6 p.m. DHS Office of the Chief Information Officer Chief of Staff Barbara Whitelaw will deliver remarks on the future of information technology in the federal government at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Bethesda Chapter September Executive Dinner. Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St., NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Larry Wilmore: "Ohio Governor John Kasich announces he's running for president! His campaign slogan, 'Nobody Asked For This'."

Larry Wilmore: "Kasich is the 16th Republican candidate running for president. Even the Duggars are like, 'Seriously? Another one?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday a major Iowa newspaper published an op-ed against Trump. They called him a 'self-absorbed, wholly unqualified feckless blowhard.' Or as Trump put it, 'you forgot very rich.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Donald Trump made Lindsey Graham's phone number public yesterday ... He just wrote Lindsey Graham's cell phone number on a piece of paper and showed it out to everybody. Gave out his cell phone number to the world, yeah. Well after he did that in public yesterday, Graham said he's getting a new phone. Which explains Lindsey Graham's latest campaign slogan, 'New Phone, Who This?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Joe Biden was spotted with a bruise on his face that was apparently caused by his dog. I

guess they collided when they both went after the same tennis ball, which happens.”

Seth Meyers: [Referring to the release of FEC’s financial disclosure documents for Donald Trump] “Serta mattresses, they pay him between one and five million a year...to license the Trump name for mattresses. It’s so insane to me, because nothing about Donald Trump says restful sleep.”

Seth Meyers: “Trump’s children released a statement this week calling their father ‘a true visionary and a great mentor.’ And Trump released a statement calling his kids ‘suck-ups and not the best. I know what you’re doing. You want to be in the will. Nice try. Buy your own mattresses.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 10, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

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DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell To Celebrate Recovery Of Louisiana Black Bear On Thursday.](#)
- + [Malheur Refuge Occupiers Hit With New Charges.](#)
- + [Majority Of Malheur County Voters Oppose Owyhee Monument.](#)
- + [Interior Film From 1939 Shows Origins Of Civilian Conservation Corps.](#)
- + [Sen. Murkowski, Forest Service Chief Tidwell Clash Over Tongass Logging Plan.](#)
- + [Researcher Develops Sage Grouse Map.](#)
- + [Western Land Managers Release Report On Battling Invasive Weeds.](#)
- + [Utah Legislature Sets Aside Funds For Lawsuit To Demand Control Of Federal Lands.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Natural Resource Investment Center Gains Leader.](#)
- + [Newest California Monuments Praised.](#)
- + [Support Urged For Arkansas Valley Conduit Project.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Navajo Nation Officials Meet With Federal Officials In Washington.](#)
- + [Schaghticoke Tribe Planning Bid For Federal Recognition.](#)
- + [Oklahoma Bill Changes Definition Of Who Can Sell "Indian Art".](#)
- + [History Of Littleton 12 Recounted.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [NMI Receives \\$382.2K For CUC Construction Management.](#)
- + [NPS Commends CNMI Historic Preservation Office.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [House Republicans Claim Gold King Emails Show Interior Avoided Investigating EPA's Fault.](#)
- + [BOR Commits To Working On Glendive Intake Diversion Dam.](#)
- + [BOR Increases Releases From Folsom Dam.](#)
- + [Westlands Water District To Pay Fine In Settlement With SEC.](#)
- + [BOR Urged To Increase Delta Water Exports.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [BLM Issues Favorable Environmental Assessment For Wyoming Wind Farm.](#)
- + [BOEM Accepts Lease Request For Hawaii Offshore Wind Project.](#)
- + [UMass Researchers Develop Improved Wind Turbine Anchoring System.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Democrats Ask GAO To Review Self-Bonding.](#)
- + [Environmentalists Seek Injunction Against Fracking Near Chaco Canyon.](#)

- + [Obama, Trudeau Expected To Announce Methane Emissions Restrictions.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: BLM Rejects Royalty-rate Cut For Idled Elk Creek Mine.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Dozens Protest In Reno Against BLM Auction Of Oil, Gas Leases On Federal Land.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: States, Gas Industry Say BLM Claiming Overly Broad Authority Over Fracking.](#)
- + [Taxpayer Advocate Urges BLM Not To Delay New Rule To Reduce Wasted Gas.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Coastal Advocates Urge President Obama To Scrap Proposal To Redirect Oil Money.](#)
- + [Draft Review Finds Offshore Well Stimulation Treatments Not Expected To Significantly Effect Santa Barbara Channel.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Las Vegas Protest Planned In Support Of Cliven Bundy.](#)
- + [Utah Bill Targets Public-land Law Enforcement.](#)
- + [Nevada Rancher Bundy Sold 1,300 Cattle Over Past Five Years.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Twin Metals Mine Dealt Another Setback.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Lawmakers Want To Take Away Guns From Federal Law Enforcement Agents.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Western Governors Scrutinize Endangered Species Act.](#)
- + [Conservationists Press FWS To Continue Wolf Tracking.](#)
- + [FWS Rejects Trails For Luxury Homes.](#)
- + [Auction House Head Pleads Guilty In Smuggling Case.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: FWS Distributes \\$1.1 Billion To State Wildlife Agencies.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: FWS Proposes Update To Mitigation Policy.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: FWS Proposes To Lift Grizzly Protection In Yellowstone Area.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Elephants From Swaziland Being Transported To US Zoos.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Reward Offered After Bald Eagle Killed In Kentucky.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Faces Diversity Challenge.](#)
- + [Yellowstone Bison Sent To Slaughter As Park Trims Herd.](#)
- + [National Park Foundation Awards 2016 Active Trails Grants.](#)
- + [New Children's Book Written In Honor Of NPS Centennial.](#)
- + [Cumberland Gap National Historical Park To Hold "Meet And Greet" Event.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Google Cultural Institute.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Seeks Public Comments On Grand Canyon Bison Herd Reduction.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Source: White House Interviewing Five Potential Supreme Court Nominees.](#)
- + [Media Analyses: Clinton Emerges "Unscathed" From Debate With "Reenergized" Sanders.](#)
- + [Trump Needs 54% Of Remaining Delegates To Get To 1,237.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO CELEBRATE RECOVERY OF LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR ON THURSDAY.

[KSLA-TV Shreveport, LA \(3/9, 63K\)](#) reports that on Thursday, March 10, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will “travel to Tensas National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate a successful conservation partnership to protect and recover the Louisiana Black bear from the brink of extinction.” Jewell will “highlight meaningful recovery efforts among federal, state, and local landowners for more than 20 years that have led to significant success for the bear – the inspiration for the iconic teddy bear.” She will be joined by FWS Director Dan Ashe, Interior’s Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Michael Bean and U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Ann Mills.

The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star \(3/9, 121K\)](#) praises the recovery of the Teddy bear. It says that “conservation efforts of the people of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and other organizations brought this woodland creature back from the risk of extinction.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet \(3/9, 46K\)](#), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch \(3/10, 337K\)](#), [KATC-TV Lafayette \(LA\) Lafayette, LA \(3/10, 54K\)](#), and [WVUE-TV New Orleans \(3/10, 44K\)](#).

MALHEUR REFUGE OCCUPIERS HIT WITH NEW CHARGES. [Reuters \(3/9, Johnson\)](#) reports that several participants in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge standoff have been indicted on new charges, including damaging government property and the carrying guns in a federal facility. The indictment, which was unsealed Wednesday, supersedes an earlier indictment in the case. The indictment lists 26 defendants, including occupation leader Ammon Bundy. As in the last indictment, each defendant is charged with conspiring to impede a federal agent, though not all were charged with the new counts.

The [AP \(3/9, Dubois\)](#) reports that Wednesday, Bundy and his co-defendants all pleaded not guilty to the new charges against them. Bundy “and eight others, including his brother Ryan, were charged with carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, which has a maximum penalty of life in prison,” the AP says.

The [Guardian \(UK\) \(3/9, Levin, 3.71M\)](#), [Oregon Public Broadcasting \(3/9, 2K\)](#), [Oregon Public Broadcasting \(3/10, 2K\)](#), the [Oregonian \(3/10, 864K\)](#), and the website of [CBS News \(3/9, 3.97M\)](#) also report on this story.

BIA Pledges Support To Burns Paiute Tribe In Aftermath Of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge's

Occupation. The [Indian Country Today Media Network \(3/9, Keeler, 48K\)](#) reports that last Monday, March 1, members of the Burns Paiute Tribe were “finally allowed to visit” the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge contains “their ancient wintering grounds and...culturally-sensitive sites and even burial grounds.” The cleanup of the refuge will include the removal of “a road the occupiers constructed, as well as three different trenches they dug where they dumped trash and human feces.” Bureau of Indian Affairs regional director Stanley Speaks has “assured” tribal members that the agency “would offer assistance for expenses the tribe had incurred for extra law enforcement patrols and for the aftermath.”

Finicum Widow Has Not Said Whether She Will Settle With BLM. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune \(3/9, Piper, 388K\)](#) reports on Jeanette Finicum, the widow of LaVoy Finicum, 54, who had been “the spokesman for the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.” She did not “say whether she plans to settle up with the Bureau of Land Management” regarding grazing fees for cattle on land in Arizona. She has said that her husband was “assassinated.”

Santilli Says Federal Case Against Him Based On What He Said. [WBUR-FM Boston \(3/9, 126K\)](#) carries an audio report on its website about Pete Santilli, who “broadcast hundreds of hours from the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge” and from “the 2014 standoff in Nevada between ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management.” Santilli has argued that the federal charges against him are based on “things he’s said.” The report says that is “raising questions about Santilli’s First Amendment rights.”

Additional Coverage Of Investigation Of Shots Fired During Arrests Of Oregon Occupiers. Additional coverage that “FBI agents who were at the scene of the shooting death of a key figure of the occupation of an Oregon national wildlife refuge are under federal investigation for not disclosing they fired two shots that missed Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum” was provided by the [Arizona Republic \(3/9, 975K\)](#), the [Christian Science Monitor \(3/9, 442K\)](#), [US News & World Report \(3/9, 853K\)](#), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\) Washington \(3/9, 30K\)](#), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\) Indianapolis \(3/9, 85K\)](#), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit \(3/9, 177K\)](#).

Secretary Jewell Criticized For Lack Of Leadership During Malheur Occupation. In an op-ed for the [High](#)

[Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/10, 74K), Matt Jenkins criticizes the lack of leadership by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Jenkins argues that "Jewell ought to be the first person to stand up for these treasures when they come under attack," but "instead, we got complete silence." He also points out that Jewell was also "a no-show" during "the showdown on Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada, in 2014."

MAJORITY OF MALHEUR COUNTY VOTERS OPPOSE OWYHEE MONUMENT. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (3/9, 19K) reports that "about 54 percent of eligible voters in Malheur County registered their opposition to a proposed Owyhee Canyonlands national monument in Tuesday's advisory referendum." The article notes that "of the votes cast, 90 percent were in opposition to a monument designation." It adds that "there were 5,666 votes opposed, with 633 votes in support of a monument, according to complete and unofficial results from the Malheur County Clerk's office." Also, "the turnout for the election was 54.25 percent of registered voters, with 6,301 ballots cast."

Additional coverage was provided by [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).

Interior Officials Meet Oregon Officials On Land Management Issues. [My Columbia Basin \(WA\)](#) (3/9) reports that Umatilla County Commissioner Lamy Givens, commenting on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with meetings with legislators and lobbyists, said that "federal officials are listening to questions about natural resource and federal land management." Givens said "during his time on Capitol Hill, he had a meeting with National Parks Director John Jarvis." Meanwhile, Harney County Judge Steve Grasty met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

INTERIOR FILM FROM 1939 SHOWS ORIGINS OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS. [SCV-TV Santa Clarita, CA](#) (3/9) shows an Interior Department film from 1939 which "examines the origins of the Civilian Conservation Corps and profiles various accomplishments of the group in helping to build our nation's parks."

SEN. MURKOWSKI, FOREST SERVICE CHIEF TIDWELL CLASH OVER TONGASS LOGGING PLAN. [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "a Forest Service draft plan to end old-growth logging at Alaska's Tongass National Forest sparked several tense exchanges yesterday between the agency's head and Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski." Murkowski, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, asked Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell "to hold off on advancing the plan to move from old-growth to new-growth logging in Tongass until completing a detailed inventory to ensure there is actually enough young-growth timber to sustain the industry." Murkowski told Tidwell "she was particularly concerned that the Forest Service's \$4.9 billion fiscal 2017 budget request did not include funding to pay for such an inventory." However, "Tidwell told Murkowski that the Forest Service intends to move forward with the plan, even if the inventory is not complete, as part of an ongoing effort to amend the Tongass National Forest's land-use plan to identify which areas should be available for timber harvest."

RESEARCHER DEVELOPS SAGE GROUSE MAP. The [Mountain Mail](#) (3/9, 17K) reports that "a Colorado State University researcher has developed an interactive online map to better target invasive species that are damaging sage grouse habitat and associated rangeland." In 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture "launched a conservation effort called the Sage Grouse Initiative, which will use the new map."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rocky Mountain Collegian \(CO\)](#) (3/9, 201).

WESTERN LAND MANAGERS RELEASE REPORT ON BATTLING INVASIVE WEEDS. The [AP](#) (3/9, Ridler, 285K) reports that "public lands managers have released an outline for creating a decades-long strategy to combat wildfire-prone invasive weeds considered a main threat to Great Basin sagebrush ecosystems." According to the report released Monday by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, "piecemeal efforts must be replaced by landscape-wide strategies stretching across Western states." The article notes that "the report is part of a much larger effort following Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's order in January 2015 calling for a 'science-based' strategy that safeguards the greater sage grouse while contending with wildfires that have grown larger over the years and have been especially destructive in the Great Basin region."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/9, 198K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/9, 337K), and the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (3/9, 73K).

UTAH LEGISLATURE SETS ASIDE FUNDS FOR LAWSUIT TO DEMAND CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that "Utah budget leaders on Wednesday approved setting aside \$4.5 million as the first payment toward a lawsuit aimed at asserting state ownership of tens of

millions of acres of federal land within Utah's borders." According to the article, "the lawsuit money is being set aside in case Attorney General Sean Reyes decides to file the public-lands lawsuit that has been years in the making." Also, "another \$250,000 was earmarked to go toward a group created by rural county commissioners that could bolster the legal defense of San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/10, 388K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER GAINS LEADER. Additional coverage that the Interior Department has named Jeff Klein Executive Director Of the Natural Resource Investment Center was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (3/9).

NEWEST CALIFORNIA MONUMENTS PRAISED. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/9, 98K), Pastor Frank Ruiz writes that "Latinos in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are thrilled that President Obama recently designated our nation's three newest national monuments – Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains – in the California desert." Ruiz expresses gratitude "to President Obama and Senator Feinstein, along with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for their leadership in assuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the desert."

SUPPORT URGED FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT PROJECT. In an editorial, the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (3/9, 87K) notes that Sen. Cory Gardner recently questioned Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor about "their commitment to the Arkansas Valley Conduit project." Gardner said, "They pledged continued support for the conduit and my legislation that helps to finally get construction of the project underway." The paper hopes "Gardner can get all the needed support in Washington, D.C., for his measure so that building the much-needed pipeline moves along as quickly as possible."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NAVAJO NATION OFFICIALS MEET WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. The [Flagstaff \(AZ\) Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) (3/9, 43K) reports that "last week, members from the Navajo Nation Council attended several meetings with federal officials and programs to discuss educational issues, repatriation of sacred items and proposed technical amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act. Council." Delegate Jonathan Hale "along with staff from the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and members of the Navajo Nation Board of Education, met with officials from the U.S. Department of Education, Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to discuss the Navajo Nation Alternative Accountability Workbook."

SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBE PLANNING BID FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (3/10) reports that "the Schaghticoke Indian Tribe of Kent is preparing to make a bid for federal recognition, according to a Bureau of Indian Affairs official and a tribal consultant." William Buchanan, "a business consultant for the tribe, said the tribe plans to file a petition for recognition in about 60 days."

OKLAHOMA BILL CHANGES DEFINITION OF WHO CAN SELL "INDIAN ART". The [Miami \(OK\) News Record](#) (3/9, 14K) reports that "the Oklahoma House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of H.B. 2261 a measure, authored by State Representative Chuck Hoskin (D-Vinita) that changes the definition of who can sell 'Indian art' under the American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974." The proposed measure, "which passed the House 90-0 on Monday, defines 'American Indian tribe' as any Indian tribe federally recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and further, defines 'American Indian' as a citizen or enrolled member of an American Indian tribe." Also, "the bill adds performing arts and literature to the list of authentic arts and crafts."

HISTORY OF LITTLETON 12 RECOUNTED. Jennifer K. Falcon, an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux tribe and a progressive political organizer in San Antonio, Texas, writes at the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/9, 48K), regarding "the 44th Anniversary of an important part of the Indian Civil Rights Movement, when 12 Indian employees at the Bureau of Indians Affairs' Plant Management Engineering Center filed a formal complaint against the bureau stating discriminatory practices in training, hiring and promotions, and misusing government funds meant for Indians." The complainants, labeled the Littleton Twelve, "would spark a movement in Denver that utilized direct action and non-violent civil disobedience to secure Indian hiring preference at the BIA."

Office of Insular Affairs:

NMI RECEIVES \$382.2K FOR CUC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/9) reports that "the commonwealth government received an authorization to proceed or ATP with the amount of \$382,225 from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s engineering and environmental management company, or EEMC." According to the article, "the next authorization to proceed that the commonwealth expects to receive from Interior is in the amount of \$730,614 for the cleanup, inspection and repair of Tank 103."

NPS COMMENDS CNMI HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/9) reports that the NPS has "removed the high-risk status of the CNMI Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for purposes of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program." According to the article, "last week, HPO's Mertie Kani shared that despite staff shortages and funding difficulties, the Historic Preservation Office has been able to achieve significant preservation goals within the past year." In her email to Mertie Kani, Federal Grants Program Analyst, Paula Falk Creech wrote, "The National Park Service hereby rescinds the high risk status for the Historic Preservation Fund grant program. The lifting of this high-risk status is because of the improvements in grant, program, and project management. We appreciate your efforts to establish procedures to submit grant applications, project notifications, final project reports, end-of-year reports, and other grant products and documents to the NPS in a timely, complete, and accurate manner."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CLAIM GOLD KING EMAILS SHOW INTERIOR AVOIDED INVESTIGATING EPA'S FAULT. [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that House Republicans claim that internal emails reveal the Interior Department "intentionally avoided investigating alleged U.S. EPA negligence in the Gold King mine spill." The House Natural Resources Committee "obtained the email chain in response to subpoenas served to Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers on Feb. 17 concerning the spill." Committee staff said much of the email correspondence was previously redacted at the request of Interior, which cited important "executive branch confidentiality interest." In the first email dated Oct. 13, 2015, Thomas Luebke, director of the BOR's Technical Service Center, sent the final draft of the "Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident" to Army Corps peer reviewer Richard Olsen for his signature. On Oct. 16, Olsen responded with "serious reservations" about the report. He "agreed with the conclusions about the spill's technical causes but said 'the actual cause of failure' was some combinations of poor decisionmaking and communication breakdown."

BOR COMMITS TO WORKING ON GLENDIVE INTAKE DIVERSION DAM. The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (3/9, 10K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester has "secured a commitment from the Bureau of Reclamation that it will work with eastern Montana irrigators to ensure access to water from the Glendive Intake Diversion Dam this growing season." Tester said "he pressed the agencies involved to ensure that irrigators have access to water this planting season during an Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee last week." BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez assured Tester, "We're going to do everything that we can to make sure that farmers get some help."

BOR INCREASES RELEASES FROM FOLSOM DAM. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/9, 569K) reports that "the American River is running higher than it has in years from Folsom to Sacramento, resulting in closed access points and encroachment on beaches." The BOR "increased water releases from Folsom Dam to 15,000 cubic feet per second this week to make room for rain expected to begin on Thursday and continue through the weekend."

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT TO PAY FINE IN SETTLEMENT WITH SEC. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/9, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that "a sprawling Central Valley water district run by some of the state's wealthiest growers papered over its drought-related financial struggles and misled investors, federal regulators said Wednesday." The Westlands Water District "shifted about \$8.3 million in expenses and other obligations to the revenue side of its ledgers, solely to be able to represent that it had enough revenue to cover debt payments on \$77 million in bonds without having to raise rates, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission." The district's general manager, Thomas W. Birmingham, "agreed to pay a \$50,000 penalty, and the district paid \$125,000 to settle the case."

Additional coverage was provided by [McClatchy](#) (3/10, 22K).

BOR URGED TO INCREASE DELTA WATER EXPORTS. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/9, 279K) editorializes that the BOR's "decision Wednesday to export less water south from the Delta than is legally allowed defies common sense." While the paper acknowledges the decision's impact on the Delta smelt, it says that the BOR

"must also consider the economic impact of its decisions on Valley farmers." The editorial argues that "in this specific case, its decision to pump less than is allowed under the biological opinion is a blow to our region's agriculture-powered economy."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM ISSUES FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WYOMING WIND FARM. The [Denver Business Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday issued an environmental assessment of the specific sites for 500 of the 1,000 turbines that will be part of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project in southern Wyoming. The draft finds "no new significant impacts" from the construction and installation of the wind turbines.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Gruver, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, Gruver, 881K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (3/9, 336K), and [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (3/9, 519).

BOEM ACCEPTS LEASE REQUEST FOR HAWAII OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT. [North American Windpower](#) (3/9, 43K) reports that "following the receipt of another unsolicited lease request for a floating offshore wind project offshore Oahu, Hawaii," the BOEM is "publishing a call for information and nominations in order to initiate a competitive planning and leasing process." In all, the bureau says "it has received three unsolicited lease requests from two developers: two requests – submitted in March 2015 – from AW Hawaii Wind LLC for the AWH Oahu Northwest Project and the AWH Oahu South Project and, now, one from Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind Inc. for the Progression South Coast of Oahu Project."

Additional coverage was provided by [reNews](#) (3/9).

UMASS RESEARCHERS DEVELOP IMPROVED WIND TURBINE ANCHORING SYSTEM. The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (3/9, Lederman, 312K) reports University of Massachusetts researchers are "developing a new mooring system for floating offshore wind turbines that uses an integrated network of anchors and lines to hold dozens of turbines in place in the ocean." The NSF-funded research aims to "hasten the progress toward the goal of generating 20 percent of U.S. energy needs from wind power by potentially reducing the cost of building offshore wind farms by a significant margin."

Onshore Energy Development:

DEMOCRATS ASK GAO TO REVIEW SELF-BONDING. [Politico Pro](#) (3/9) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell and Dick Durbin on Tuesday called on the Government Accountability Office "to open two different inquiries into the practice of self-bonding, under which coal producers set aside money to reclaim old coal mines in the event of bankruptcy." They said that "it's time for Interior and Congress to 'revisit' self-bonding authorization, and ask GAO to author a comparison of self-bonding across federal programs, and to audit self-bonding under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Insurance Journal](#) (3/9, 57K) and [Business Insurance](#) (3/9, 126K).

ENVIRONMENTALIST SEEK INJUNCTION AGAINST FRACKING NEAR CHACO CANYON. The [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (3/9, 69K) reports that "environmental groups have once again asked a judge to order the US Bureau of Land Management to stop issuing permits for hydraulic fracturing near Chaco Canyon." The Western Environmental Law Center "made oral arguments in the case to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on Tuesday." According to the article, "the argument contends it's unlawful for the BLM to issue permits without analyzing their cumulative impacts while continuing to rely on a resource management plan that didn't consider drilling on this scale in this location viable." The suit "calls for a preliminary injunction to suspend additional development while the BLM does a baseline analysis of the area."

OBAMA, TRUDEAU EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE METHANE EMISSIONS RESTRICTIONS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports the Obama Administration is expected to announce methane emissions restrictions today when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits the White House. The EPA will start devising regulations for existing wells with the intention of releasing April draft

requirements.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM REJECTS ROYALTY-RATE CUT FOR IDLED ELK CREEK MINE.

Additional coverage that the BLM “has decided against issuing a royalty rate reduction to Oxbow Mining’s idled Elk Creek Mine” was provided by the [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (3/10, 17K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/9, 73K) and [Raw Story](#) (3/8, 1.24M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DOZENS PROTEST IN RENO AGAINST BLM AUCTION OF OIL, GAS LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND. Additional coverage of the “Keep It In The Ground” protest in Nevada was provided by the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/9, 22K) and [KOLO-TV Reno, NV](#) (3/8, 41K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: STATES, GAS INDUSTRY SAY BLM CLAIMING OVERLY BROAD AUTHORITY OVER FRACKING. Additional coverage that “several western states and industry groups are hammering away at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hydraulic fracturing (fracking) rule to prevent the federal agency from governing leasehold activity on public and tribal lands” was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/10, Subscription Publication).

TAXPAYER ADVOCATE URGES BLM NOT TO DELAY NEW RULE TO REDUCE WASTED GAS. Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, writes at [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K) in support of a new rule proposed by the Bureau of Land Management “to reduce wasted gas,” stating that it “is both overdue and makes sense.” The rule would “require operators to reduce the gas being wasted by using more current drilling technology, paying closer attention to possible leaks and fixing the ones they find, and submitting waste minimization plans along with their application for a permit to drill new wells.” Alexander reports that at a public hearing for the rule in North Dakota, opponents all requested that the BLM “extend the period of time before the rule become final.” He argues against this, saying that “time is money,” and that “oil and gas operators are wasting taxpayer assets by literally releasing them into the air without paying for them.”

Physician Urges Greater Focus On Health. Dr. Barbara Bentz, MD, a Sanford Health pediatrician, writes at the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (3/9, 97K) on the proposed rule with a focus on the health effects of methane, pointing that it is “an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas,” and can “cause suffocation” leading to “headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, rapid breathing, loss of coordination, loss of consciousness and possible death.” Bentz recommends including “an experienced federal public health agency such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry as a partner to determine the most effective way to continuously measure methane levels in the environment before it is sold or transported.”

Offshore Energy Development:

COASTAL ADVOCATES URGE PRESIDENT OBAMA TO SCRAP PROPOSAL TO REDIRECT OIL MONEY. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (3/8, 99K) reports that “several hundred Louisiana governmental agencies, environmental groups and coastal entities cosigned a letter requesting President Barack Obama to back off on a proposal that would redirect oil and gas royalties earmarked for coastal restoration.” At issue is the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act, or GOMESA, “which is expected to send about \$176 million to Louisiana next year, with \$30 million for coastal parishes such as Lafourche and Terrebonne, a majority of which is constitutionally dedicated to coastal restoration projects.” In its latest budget proposal, the White House “calls for repealing the payments, saying they are ‘unnecessary and costly’ while benefiting only a ‘handful of states.’” According to the article, “in the letter signed by 330 groups, the authors, who acknowledge the White House’s efforts in helping the state recover from various disasters, criticize Obama’s efforts to redirect the money.”

DRAFT REVIEW FINDS OFFSHORE WELL STIMULATION TREATMENTS NOT EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EFFECT SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL. The [Santa Maria \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/10, Swanston, 55K) reports on a draft environmental review conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management found that “offshore well stimulation treatments, including acidizing and hydraulic fracturing (fracking), do not significantly impact environments in the Santa Barbara Channel’s federal waters.” In response, the Environmental Defense Center said the review “falls short in several fundamental respects,” and EDC senior attorney Brian Segee said the finding “defies common sense,” adding that the conclusion “is simply not credible.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

LAS VEGAS PROTEST PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF CLIVEN BUNDY. The [AP](#) (3/10, 853K) reports that “backers of a Nevada rancher at the center of a fight over control of public lands in the West are promising a show of support outside a U.S. courthouse where he’s facing charges that he led an armed standoff against federal agents two years ago.” According to the article, “Cliven Bundy’s wife and other family members and friends said this week the planned demonstration before Bundy’s court appearance on Thursday will show they’re keeping up their fight against the federal government.” The article says that “Nevada allows open-carrying of guns, and Las Vegas police and U.S. marshals said they expect some protesters will be armed, but will remain peaceful.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/10, Ritter, 881K).

Nevada Rancher Bundy Sold 1,300 Cattle Over Past Five Years. [Greenwire](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy “sold close to 1,300 cattle over the past five years and found business in a handful of states even as the federal government sought to purge his herd from public lands, according to state records.” Bundy “sold or transferred cattle to nearly two dozen recipients in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Kansas, according to branding records kept by Nevada’s Department of Agriculture.” According to the records, “nearly half the cattle were trucked about 100 miles northeast from Bundy’s Bunkerville ranch to an auction yard in Cedar City, Utah, and 165 cattle were shipped west to a sale yard near Bakersfield, Calif. Most cattle, about 800, ended up in Utah.”

Judge Denies Bail For New Hampshire Man In Nevada Standoff. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Siefer) reports that U.S. District Court Judge Andrea Johnstone has denied bail for Jerry DeLemus, who is accused of being a mid-level organizer in the 2014 Nevada ranch standoff.

UTAH BILL TARGETS PUBLIC-LAND LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that “a bill seeking to resolve conflicts between local, county and federal law enforcement agencies on who has the right to police public lands awaits the signature of Gov. Gary Herbert after it passed in the Senate.” Sen. David Hinkins, the Senate sponsor, “explained on the floor how law-enforcement agencies would interact under the bill.” He said, “HB391 sets up a procedure for a county sheriff to seek legal relief if ... duties are violated by the [Bureau of Land Management] or Forest Service.” According to the article, “local sheriffs would work with the Utah attorney general’s office in preparing a letter to the federal agencies stating demands and deciding on legal action if those demands are not sufficiently met.”

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY SOLD 1,300 CATTLE OVER PAST FIVE YEARS. [Greenwire](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy “sold close to 1,300 cattle over the past five years and found business in a handful of states even as the federal government sought to purge his herd from public lands, according to state records.” Bundy “sold or transferred cattle to nearly two dozen recipients in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Kansas, according to branding records kept by Nevada’s Department of Agriculture.” According to the records, “nearly half the cattle were trucked about 100 miles northeast from Bundy’s Bunkerville ranch to an auction yard in Cedar City, Utah, and 165 cattle were shipped west to a sale yard near Bakersfield, Calif. Most cattle, about 800, ended up in Utah.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TWIN METALS MINE DEALT ANOTHER SETBACK. Additional coverage of the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/9, Henry, 862K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/9, 1.25M), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/9, 1.25M), the [MinnPost \(MN\)](#) (3/9, 8K), the [Cook-Or \(MN\) Timberjay](#) (3/9, 142), and [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (3/9, 456)..

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LAWMAKERS WANT TO TAKE AWAY GUNS FROM FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. Additional coverage that “Utah’s representatives in Congress are calling for federal land managers with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to give up their law enforcement authority” was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/9, 48K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (3/9, 404K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WESTERN GOVERNORS SCRUTINIZE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. [The Hill](#) (3/9, Cama, 862K) report that “a coalition of western state governors is considering formally backing legislation to shift power away from the federal government for endangered species protections.” At a forum Wednesday in Denver, Wyoming Gov.

Matt Mead said "it'd be premature to say whether the Western Governors Association will ask for changes to the 1973 Endangered Species Act." However, "the governors see the species law as ineffective, and want to see more species' protections handled like the sage grouse, which avoided formal protections last year in favor of state-led efforts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, Finley, 881K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/9, 290K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/9, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Elliott, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, 881K), [The East Oregonian](#) (3/9, 24K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/9, 31K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, 4.92M).

CONSERVATIONISTS PRESS FWS TO CONTINUE WOLF TRACKING. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that five conservation groups on Wednesday pressed the FWS "to continue monitoring gray wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains." The service has "been tracking changes in the wolves' abundance and distribution and threats to the population segment ever since Congress removed it from the endangered species list in a spending bill policy rider nearly five years ago." However, "the agency's post-delisting monitoring program is set to end in May." The conservationists, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, say FWS rules require continued monitoring.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Ridler, 285K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/9, 78K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).

FWS REJECTS TRAILS FOR LUXURY HOMES. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/9, 73K) reports that "a key amenity proposed for the Canyon Estates luxury home project involving hiking trails through American Canyon's eastern hillside has been nixed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service." The "trails ran afoul with federal biologists over their potential impacts on native species, one of which is considered 'threatened.'"

AUCTION HOUSE HEAD PLEADS GUILTY IN SMUGGLING CASE. The [Famagusta Gazette \(CYP\)](#) (3/9) reports that "a gallery and auction house official in Beverly Hills, California pleaded guilty to smuggling carvings and other items made from protected wildlife with an estimated worth of 1 million U.S. dollars." Joseph Chait, "a senior auction administrator of the I.M. Chait gallery and auction house, pleaded guilty to smuggling elephant ivory, rhinoceros horn and coral in a New York federal court, prosecutors said on Wednesday." Chait "could face up to 10 years in prison under two related charges."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS DISTRIBUTES \$1.1 BILLION TO STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES. Additional coverage that the FWS is distributing \$1.1 billion to state wildlife agencies under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts was provided by the [OutdoorHub](#) (3/9, 67K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES UPDATE TO MITIGATION POLICY. Additional coverage that the FWS has proposed an update to its mitigation policy was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) and [JD Supra](#) (3/9, 5K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES TO LIFT GRIZZLY PROTECTION IN YELLOWSTONE AREA. Additional coverage that "a new proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could lead to the delisting of grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" was provided by the [Teton Valley \(ID\) News](#) (3/9, 7K), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (3/9, 33K), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (3/9, 1K), and [Care2](#) (3/9, 156K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ELEPHANTS FROM SWAZILAND BEING TRANSPORTED TO US ZOOS. Additional coverage that elephants from Swaziland are being transported to U.S. zoos in Omaha, Wichita and Dallas was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/9, Brulliard, 8.98M), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/10, 1.24M), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/9, Milman, 3.71M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REWARD OFFERED AFTER BALD EAGLE KILLED IN KENTUCKY. Additional coverage that the FWS is "offering a \$2,500 reward for information about the shooting of a bald eagle in western Kentucky" was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, 285K) and the [Northern Kentucky Tribune](#) (3/9).

National Park Service:

NPS FACES DIVERSITY CHALLENGE. [NPR](#) (3/9, 1.81M) reports that the NPS has “a diversity problem.” The park service “doesn’t track the demographics of its visitors, but the most recent survey commissioned by the Park Service to see how different population groups related to the parks found” that “collectively, minorities made up just over 20 percent of the visitors to national parks, despite the fact that they made up nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis has “made increasing diversity at the national parks a top priority as the Park Service approaches its centennial.” His Call to Action plan — a vision for the organization’s future — states: “In our second century, we will fully represent our nation’s ethnically and culturally diverse communities.”

YELLOWSTONE BISON SENT TO SLAUGHTER AS PARK TRIMS HERD. The [AP](#) (3/9, Brown, Press, 1.99M) reports that Yellowstone National Park “started shipping many of its famous wild bison to slaughter Wednesday to drive down the size of the park’s herds and respond to concerns by the livestock industry over a disease carried by the animals.” According to the article, “thirty animals have been shipped to slaughterhouses, and officials plan to send an additional 63 in the next few days.” The AP says that “the park’s actions are driven by an agreement in 2000 with Montana officials that requires it to control its bison herds.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (3/9, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, 4.92M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/9, 352K).

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AWARDS 2016 ACTIVE TRAILS GRANTS. The [Fayette \(WV\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 37) reports that New River Gorge National River is “one of 25 national parks selected to receive a 2016 Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America’s national parks.” According to the article, “through a unique partnership with Active Southern West Virginia, this grant will bring a multitude of wellness programming to Camp Brookside, an emerging environmental education center located in Summers County.” The money will “be used to both purchase equipment and train community volunteers to teach free public programs at Camp Brookside, including outdoor yoga, tai chi, stand up paddleboarding, fly fishing, archery and various guided hikes, including owl prowls, bird watches and plant identification hikes, in addition to wellness-focused and heritage-style cooking classes.”

NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK WRITTEN IN HONOR OF NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, Dailymail.com, 4.92M) reports that “the daughter of former President George W. Bush teamed up with her mother Laura to write their new children’s book *Our great Big Backyard*.” Their book will be available in May in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the National Park Service.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO HOLD “MEET AND GREET” EVENT. The [Middlesboro \(KY\) Daily News](#) (3/9, 433) reports that Cumberland Gap National Historical Park will hold a Meet and Greet on March 11. According to the article, “as 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, school children and visitors will be able to connect with staff from other national parks – a mountain climbing ranger from Yosemite National Park, a river rafting ranger from Obed Wild and Scenic River, a musician ranger from New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, an architectural preservationist from the National Mall and Memorial Parks and archaeologists and scuba divers from the Submerged Resources Center – and learn how these trained professionals help protect these areas which Americans value.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE. Additional coverage of the Google Cultural Institute was provided by [WHSV-TV Harrisonburg, VA](#) (3/9, 25K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GRAND CANYON BISON HERD REDUCTION. Additional coverage that the NPS “released a plan Tuesday that calls for managing overpopulated bison herds within the Grand Canyon National Park” was provided by [AmmoLand](#) (3/9, 9K).

Top National News:

SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE INTERVIEWING FIVE POTENTIAL SUPREME COURT NOMINEES. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Edwards) reports the White House is interviewing five potential Supreme Court nominees according to a source familiar with the process. The individuals being considered are federal judges Sri Srinivasan, Jane Kelly, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Paul Watford, and Merrick Garland.

Obama Facing Pressure To Nominate Black Woman To Supreme Court. The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Markon, Horwitz, Debonis, 8.98M) reports black civil rights activists “are pressing” Obama to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court, “calling it an overdue historic first at a time of growing ethnic diversity and an

intense debate about racial justice issues." The Post says "the pressure had been building since Justice Antonin Scalia's sudden death." At a recent White House meeting, according to the Post, "a number of activists directly urged the president to nominate an African American woman, pointing out that they had supported him at the polls in overwhelming numbers."

Poll: Voters Disagree With GOP Blocking Any Potential Supreme Court Nominee. [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, Levy, 853K) reports a new Wall Street Journal poll found congressional Republicans' vow to block any Supreme Court nominee "shows the strategy may be backfiring." According to the survey, 55 percent of registered voters disagree with the refusal to conduct hearings on a potential nominee. More than four-out-of-five of that 55 percent said they "strongly disapproved."

Posner: Debate Shows Supreme Court Is "Politicized Court." In a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) op-ed, US Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner says the significance of Republicans vowing to block any Supreme Court nominee "lies in reminding us that the Supreme Court is not an ordinary court but a political court, or more precisely a politicized court, which is to say a court strongly influenced in making its decisions by the political beliefs of the judges."

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON EMERGES "UNSCATHED" FROM DEBATE WITH "REENERGIzed" SANDERS. Most media coverage does not cast Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders as the winner of their debate in Florida on Wednesday night, as reports cite positives in each of their performances. For example, while [Fortune](#) (3/9, Geier, 4.02M) said on its website Clinton "took a few hits" but "made her way through the event relatively unscathed," a front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, A1, Balz, 8.98M) says while the debate once appeared "as if it might be an anticlimax as Clinton rolled toward the nomination," Sanders "arrived reenergized and reinvigorated after his surprising victory in Michigan." Immigration issues are seen as the primary topic discussed in the forum, which is described as "contentious," and several reports note the candidates were critical of each other's record on immigration as they clashed over who is the better advocate for Latinos.

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Healy, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) describes the debate as "contentious," noting that Clinton and Sanders "clashed vividly over immigration reform and deportations" as they made "made aggressive appeals to Hispanic voters." The Times adds that they were "a study in contrasts as they made stark appeals to the demographic groups they have come to prize." The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (3/9, Bennett, Washington, 313K) says both "slammed" Donald Trump, with Sanders describing himself as "the strongest candidate to beat Donald Trump," and Clinton "boast[ing] that she criticized Trump early in his candidacy."

On its website, [Fortune](#) (3/9, Geier, 4.02M) said the debate was, "at times, more contentious than previous debates," adding that Clinton "held her ground," and "did a good job of standing up to Sanders when he directly attacked her record," while Sanders "continued to position himself as the true progressive in the race, forcing Clinton to defend her positions on healthcare, student debt, and her ties to Wall Street." [Politico](#) (3/9, Debenedetti, 1.07M) reported while Clinton wanted to debate Trump's "extreme immigration proposals," she was instead "locked in a sparring match" with Sanders, "as each litigated the other's record on immigration reform and bailouts and lit into one another's plans for healthcare reform and college tuition."

A [Politico](#) (3/9, Strauss, 1.07M) analysis, which listed the "six most interesting moments" from the debate, said the forum marked Clinton's "first opportunity to try and rebound" from her "surprising loss" in the Michigan primary. Similarly, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Fahrenthold, 8.98M) says Clinton, on the heels of her "stinging upset loss in the Michigan primary," launched "sharp attacks" on Sanders, "criticizing him as too far left at some points, but also seeking to cast him as an ally of far-right militiamen on the subject of immigration." The attacks, says the Post, were a sign Clinton "is not yet able to pivot toward a general-election matchup against Republicans" as she is "still trying to make a case against Sanders."

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/9, Mazzei, 803K) said Florida was the "target audience" Wednesday night as the candidates "were asked about Cuba." While both support the President's "reestablished diplomatic relations...and lifting the trade embargo," Clinton "used harsher language to describe Fidel and Raúl Castro" than Sanders, who "visited Cuba under the Castros several times." The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/9, Man, Mayo, Clary, Ballou, 605K) also said Clinton and Sanders "reiterat[ed] their support for President Barack Obama's decision to resume relations with Cuba."

[USA Today](#) (3/9, Gaudiano, 5.45M) reports immigration was "the centerpiece of the debate as Sanders and Clinton got into a tight back-and-forth over various past positions." [Reuters](#) (3/9, Oliphant, Lopez) notes the

candidates disagreed about who has the stronger commitment to immigration reform, and the AP New York (3/9, Benac, Lerer, 186K) says Clinton and Sanders “tangled repeatedly...over who’s a true advocate for Latinos and who has a track record of letting Hispanics down.” Clinton hit Sanders “for repeatedly voting against a 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill,” while Sanders hit Clinton “for opposing a 2007 effort to allow people who were in the country illegally to obtain driver’s licenses.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/9, Foley, 518K) noted that both “promised to not deport children or non-criminal undocumented immigrants, and criticized President Barack Obama for doing so.”

Former Obama Aides Debate Auto Bailout Attacks On Twitter. [Politico](#) (3/9, Gass, 1.07M) reported in its “Bernie v. Hillary” blog as Clinton and Sanders “debated the intricacies of the auto bailout, former aides to President Barack Obama clashed on Twitter over the subject.” Gene Sperling tweeted, “This is not disputable. Every penny that went to the auto bail out Bernie Sanders voted against. Not disputable.” Steve Rattner, who led the President’s auto industry task force in 2009, agreed, tweeting, “Clinton is right on auto bailout. If everyone had voted like Sanders, auto industry would have collapsed killing millions of jobs.” David Axelrod, took a different position, however, tweeting, “She did it again and I’ll say it again. It’s misleading to imply that TARP II was an auto bailout bill.”

TRUMP NEEDS 54% OF REMAINING DELEGATES TO GET TO 1,237. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/9, story 2, 2:45, Jackson, 7.86M) reported in “a sign those establishment attacks aren’t working, not yet at least,” Trump “is racking up more delegates.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/9, story 4, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) said Trump “is looking like the inevitable Republican nominee after winning three of four states last night,” and a [New York Times](#) (3/9, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says GOP leaders’ chance of denying Trump the nomination “was a bit remoter on Wednesday,” following his victories in Michigan, Mississippi, and Hawaii. Trump, who “captured most of the 150 delegates at stake Tuesday,” now needs “about 54 percent of outstanding delegates; his closest rival, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, needs 62 percent.” [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) reports that analysts say “winning the Florida and Ohio primaries on Tuesday would give Trump an almost insurmountable path to the nomination.” In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (3/9, lead story, 3:40, Muir, 5.84M) reported Trump is “vowing, if he wins Ohio and Florida next, he’ll go for, in his words, a knockout.” Trump: “I see probably getting the delegates. You know, it’s like the fighters. That’s the ultimate way of doing it. You knock them out. If you knock them out, nothing can happen.”

In a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Carson, 8.98M) op-ed, Ben Carson argues that as a Trump nomination appears more likely, the “GOP party faithful” can be expected to “pivot to the strategic interests of their down-ticket candidates this November.”

WTimes Analysis: Trump Will Be 74 Delegates Short Of Threshold For Nomination. In an analysis, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Hallow, 285K) says after “California and three other states count their votes from the last four primaries June 7,” Trump “will be 74 or so delegates short of the 1,237 majority needed for the nomination,” making it “increasingly unlikely that the Republican establishment...will carry through with plans to change the convention rules to wrest the nomination from Mr. Trump and hand it to an establishment-approved candidate.”

CNN/ORC, Quinnipiac Show Trump Leading In Florida And Ohio. A CNN/ORC poll released Wednesday shows Donald Trump leading Marco Rubio and John Kasich in their respective home states of Florida and Ohio ahead of next week primaries in those states. According to the poll, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Sherfinski, 285K) reports, Trump leads Rubio 40-24 in Florida, followed by Ted Cruz with 19%, and Kasich with 5%. In Ohio, Trump leads Kasich 41-35, with Cruz at 15% and Rubio at 7%. Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) says a Quinnipiac University survey “shows Trump leading Rubio 45-22%” in Florida.

Fox News Poll Shows Kasich Leading In Ohio. A Fox News poll, however, shows Kasich leading in Ohio with 34%, followed by Trump with 29%, Cruz with 19%, and Rubio with 7%, [The Hill](#) (3/9, Easley, 862K) reported in its “Ballot Box” blog.

Anti-Trump Groups Spending Millions On Ads In Florida, Illinois. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/9, Higgins, 289K) says a “torrent of cash” is being spent on political ads in Florida and Illinois ahead of their March 15 primaries. Kantar Media’s CMAG estimates that outside groups and campaigns “have committed \$9.2 million for ads in Florida for the seven-day period beginning March 8.” Conservative Solutions PAC, which backs Rubio, is responsible for \$4.3 million of that total, “underscor[ing] the do-or-die stakes for Rubio in Florida.” The group has “also committed \$1.4 million in Illinois.” Among other anti-Trump groups “spending heavily” are the American Future Fund, which has spent \$1.38 million on ads in Florida and \$765,000 in Illinois; Club for Growth, which is “slated to spend a total of \$2.4 million in Florida and Illinois”; and Our Principles PAC, which is “set to spend

\$1.4 million in commercials in the two states.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Peters, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Republican Party “is planning to make what could be its last stand” against Trump in Florida’s March 15 primary. The winner-take-all primary “figures to be a climactic moment,” as Trump’s candidacy “faces the biggest test yet of whether it is built to endure.” Meanwhile, Rubio “will have to decide whether he can stay in the race if he loses,” and Cruz “will see how far his efforts to chip away at the support of both rivals can go.” The Times says “much of the anti-establishment anger that [Rubio] rode to victory in the 2010 midterm elections is now working against him” as Trump and Cruz “are the anti-establishment now.”

Bush To Meet With Cruz, Rubio, Kasich This Week In Miami. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/9, Bender, 289K) reports a spokeswoman said Jeb Bush will meet with Rubio, Cruz, and Kasich in Miami this week. [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) says the meetings suggest Bush “may be ready to endorse one of Trump’s rivals in an effort to prevent the brash billionaire from capturing Florida and its coveted 99 delegates.”

O’Reilly Takes Issue With Portrayals Of Trump As Fascist. In his “Talking Points Memo” segment on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (3/9, 767K), Bill O’Reilly said “some in the media both left and right are portraying Mr. Trump as a 1930s-type fascist and his supporters as budding brown shirts,” and argued this is “a strategy with the intention of not only demeaning Trump but his supporters as well.” O’Reilly added, “The movement that Trump represents has nothing to do with fascism, everything to do with furious dissent. ... The cold truth is, charges of racism and fascism are easy smears designed to stop freedom of expression and stifle debate.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A Lesson In Hillary Clinton’s Loss In Michigan.” A [New York Times](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial said Hillary Clinton’s “surprising loss in Michigan...holds some lessons about how to approach future contests.” While her candidacy “speaks eloquently of embracing the people, values and thinking that make this nation a leader in the world,” her “campaign tactics, particularly in Michigan, did not live up to this vision.” Although Clinton “may be annoyed at the continued challenge posed by” Bernie Sanders, he “is likely to remain in the contest to the end.” If Clinton becomes the Democratic nominee, she “must win over and energize his supporters,” and the Michigan results “suggest she has a ways to go.”

“How To Reduce Medicare Drug Costs.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/10, A22, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ proposed tests for Part B prescription drugs are “a reasonable attempt to get a handle on rising medical costs. The tests, which would take place in different parts of the country over five years, should provide valuable evidence about how changing incentives affects spending on health care.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Mr. Sanders Peddles Fiction On Free Trade.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) says Bernie Sanders is “doubling down on protectionism,” adding that his position “is built on bogus numbers that defy the overwhelming consensus among economists, and his solutions would do much more harm than good.” While Sanders’ “populist rhetoric doesn’t stand up to scrutiny,” the Post argues, “politically, it appears to be working,” and Hillary Clinton “has surrendered the issue by failing to stand up for the TPP.” Noting that Sanders “has the protectionists’ vote,” the Post says Clinton “would be wise to offer a positive alternative.”

“Caixin Media’s Display Of Courage Against China’s Censors.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) applauds Chinese news organization Caixin Media for its “courage” in refusing to back down to government intimidation. The government had ordered Caixin to remove an article for containing “illegal content.” That article quoted Jiang Hong, who advises the government on economic policy, as saying that “people like himself should feel free to give their opinions to party leaders” on policy, cultural, and societal issues. Though it took the article down, Caixin republished it Tuesday on its English-language website, “revealing the censorship, accompanied by a photograph of a mouth that had been sealed with tape.”

“Finally, An Action Plan For Metro.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) says new Metro general manager Paul Wiedefeld’s recent “passenger-friendly” updates to the public on the status of improvements deserve credit, but his communication “will not undo...underlying problems, let alone reverse years of poor management.” While Wiedefeld’s proposals include “enhanced accountability and transparency,” the Metro’s “fundamental structural challenges persist,” and the Metro board is still “too large and unwieldy and too susceptible to political pressures.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“Hillary’s Michigan Droop.”* An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says Hillary Clinton’s loss in the Michigan primary demonstrates that she is a weak candidate.

“Clinton’s Star Email Witness.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says now that former State Department computer tech Bryan Pagliano, who set up Hillary Clinton’s private email server and who previously exercised his Fifth Amendment right not to testify, has been granted immunity, he should tell Congress what he knows about Clinton’s server. The Journal argues the public has a right to the information if Clinton wants to be the next president.

“Iran’s Moderates Go Ballistic.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that a country that cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons also cannot be expected to honor an agreement to eliminate its nuclear program. The Journal says the Iranian missile program is an indication that the nuclear deal has increased Tehran’s military leverage.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

- [Free Trade Loses Political Favor](#)
- [Democrats Settle in for Long Presidential Contest](#)
- [Tracking the Mortgage-Crisis Settlements](#)
- [Twitter Bets on Payouts to Rein In Talent Flight](#)

New York Times:

- [Clinton And Sanders Clash On Immigration At Debate](#)
- [Clinton Giving Jobs And Trade New Emphasis](#)
- [Vote In Florida Tests Fortunes Of 3 In GOP](#)
- [After The Game, Women On Guard](#)
- [Life-Saving Tweak For Many Kidney Transplants](#)
- [Machine Masters Man In Complex Game Of Go](#)

Washington Post:

- [Scrappy Debate Signals Long Grind](#)
- [Rubio’s Fateful Error: A Strategy That Backfired](#)
- [Whitman Letter To Dying Soldier’s Family Uncovered At Archives](#)
- [Drug Defies A Rare Form Of Cancer — And Market Logic](#)
- [As Borders Close, Some Migrants Pin Hopes On A Hostile Hungary](#)
- [Clinton, Sanders Clash On Immigration](#)

Financial Times:

- [Senior Bankers Warn ECB Over Perils Of Negative Interest Rests](#)
- [Fears Rise Of New Oligarchy As Putin’s Childhood Friend Eyes Aeroflot Stake](#)

Washington Times:

- [Osama Bin Laden, Iran Shared Logistical Alliance, Intense Hatred Of US](#)
- [Catholic Priest Demands US Recognize Genocide Against Christians In Iraq, Syria](#)
- [Thousands Pay Tribute To Nancy Reagan At Presidential Library](#)
- [Sanders Exposes Clinton’s General Election Vulnerabilities In Michigan](#)
- [Court Case Pits ‘Motor-Voter’ Laws Against Citizenship IDs](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

- ABC:** 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Seattle-Gas Explosion; Missouri-Murder Suspect Arrested; US Airstrikes Against ISIL; Pennsylvania-Armed Robbery Foiled; Bill Cosby Case; United Airlines-Seat Changes; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service.
- CBS:** Severe Weather; ISIL-Chemical Weapons; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Republicans; DC-Idaho Fugitive Arrested; Audi Seat Failure Lawsuit; Zika Virus Outbreak; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service.
- NBC:** Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Seattle-Gas Explosion; DC-Idaho

Fugitive Arrested; Iraq-ISIL Chemical Engineer Captured; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service; IRS Scam; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Solar Eclipse Sighting.

Network TV At A Glance:

- 2016 Politics – 15 minutes, 10 minutes
- Severe Weather/Weather Forecast – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
- ISIL – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
- DC-Idaho Fugitive Arrested – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
- Seattle-Gas Explosion – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
- Nancy Reagan Memorial Service – 2 minutes, 50 seconds
- Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

- ABC:** 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Fiorina Endorses Cruz; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; Congress-Heroin Epidemic Bill; Severe Weather-Louisiana.
- CBS:** Severe Weather-Louisiana; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Pop Warner-Concussions Lawsuit Settlement.
- FOX:** Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Severe Weather; Texas-Death Row Inmate Executed; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Boston Chipotle Reopens; Florida-Farmers Protest Wendy's Fast Food Chain; Wall Street.
- NPR:** 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; NOAA-California Drought Report; New York-Alleged ISIL Recruit Arrested; Missouri-Religious Freedom Bill; North Korea To Liquidate South Assets.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama host Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau at the White House, for an Official Visit, including a State Dinner in their honor.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Joe Biden and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden travel from Jerusalem, Israel, to Amman, Jordan, where the Vice President meets and holds a bilateral working lunch with King Abdullah II, while Dr. Biden visits a refugee camp. Vice President Biden and King Abdullah then attend a demonstration at the Joint Training Center, before the couple both have dinner with King Abdullah and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on healthcare CO-OPs – Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on 'Review of the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance CO-OP Program', with testimony from University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Healthcare Management Department Chair Dr. Scott Harrington; and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt, and Deputy Administrator Kevin Counihan. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

10:00 AM Acting Education Secretary King testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for the US Department of Education', with testimony from Acting Secretary of Education John King. Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Elizabeth Drake, Jennifer Choe Groves, and Gary Stephen Katzmann to be US Court of International Trade Judges, and Clare Connors to be US District Judge for the District of Hawaii, as well as 'S. 247, Expatriate Terrorist Act', 'S. 2390, Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2015', 'S.2613, Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2016', and 'S.2614, Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016' * Postponed from 3 Mar. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224

7703.

10:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on commercial applications of drones – Hearing on 'Up in the Air: Examining the Commercial Applications of Unmanned Aircraft for Small Businesses', with testimony from Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne; Air Line Pilots Association International President Tim Canoll; Mercatus Center at George Mason University Technology Policy Program Director Eli Dourado; Physical Sciences Vice President for Disruptive Technologies Dr. Thomas Vaneck; and Pepperdine University Professor of Law / AirMap co-founder Dr. Gregory McNeal. Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on USSTRATCOM, USNORTHCOM, and USSOUTHCOM budgets – Hearing on 'United States Strategic Command, United States Northern Command, and United States Southern Command Programs and Budget', with testimony from US Strategic Command Commander Adm. Cecil Haney; US Northern Command Commander and North American Aerospace Defense Command Commander Adm. William Gortney; and US Southern Command Commander Adm. Kurt Tidd. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Armed Services Committee 1 202 224 3871.

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Catherine Ann Novelli to be Alternate US Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Karen Brevard Stewart to be Ambassador to the Marshall Islands; Amos Hochstein to be Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources; Robert Annan Riley III to be Ambassador to Micronesia; Matthew John Matthews for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as US Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum; and Marcela Escobari to be USAID Assistant Administrator, plus consideration of legislation including 'S. 1252, Global Food Security Act of 2015', 'S. Res 375, A resolution raising awareness of modern slavery', 'S. Res. 388, A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day', and 'S. Res. 383, A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation'. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651. Immediately followed by nominations hearing.

10:00 AM National Council of La Raza release results from survey of Latino community influencers – National Council of La Raza release results from a survey of Latino community influencers – conducted by Latino Decisions and sponsored by Telemundo – at a press forum on 'Voices from Latino Community Influencers: Taking the Pulse of the Latino Vote' held as part of its Latino Voter Summit. Forum features the survey results and a panel of community leaders, and is a joint effort between NCLR's #LatinosVote and Telemundo's #YoDecido campaigns. Speakers/participants include Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, Latino Decisions Senior Analyst and Evaluation Specialist Blanca Guillen-Woods, Hispanas Organizadas de Lake and Ashtabula (HOLA) Executive Director Veronica Dahlberg, Centro Hispano Executive Director Mike Toledo, and NCLR Deputy Vice President Clarissa Martinez-de-Castro. Location: Rm 188, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.nclr.org <https://twitter.com/NCLR>. Contacts: Julian Teixeira NCLR Communications Director jteixeira@nclr.org 1 202 776 1812. Media interested in attending the forum should RSVP to Gaby Gomez at ggomez@nclr.org or (202) 776-1732.

10:15 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Christine Ann Elder to be Ambassador to Liberia; R. David Harden to be USAID Assistant Administrator; Elizabeth Holzhall Richard to be Ambassador to Lebanon; Stephen Michael Schwartz to be Ambassador to Somalia; Adam Sterling to be Ambassador to Slovakia; Kelly Keiderling-Franz to be Ambassador to Uruguay; and Mark Sobel to be US Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651. Immediately follows earlier business meeting.

10:30 AM NASA Administrator Bolden testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the National Aeronautics and Space Agency', with testimony from NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

11:00 AM VA Secretary McDonald testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 and FY'18 budgets

– Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing ‘To review the Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 budget request for the US Department of Veterans Affairs’, with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald; Veterans Health Administration Under Secretary David Shulkin; and Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Under Secretary Danny Pummill. Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>. Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

2:30 PM HUD Secretary Castro testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY’17 budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing ‘To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’, with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro; and HUD Inspector General David Montoya. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

US House: 11:30 AM House of Representatives meetings in pro forma session * House is on recess from 4 Mar – 14 Mar, Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/> Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945.

4:00 PM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi meets Canadian PM Trudeau – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi meets Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with a photo opportunity at the top. Location: H-207, US Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>. Contacts: Drew Hammill House Minority Leader press Democratic. Leader@mail.house.gov 1 202 226 7616. Cameras must be pre-set for a security sweep by 3:00 pm * Press must RSVP to ned.adriance@mail.house.gov.

Other: 8:00 AM New America / Arizona State University annual Future of War Conference – New America / Arizona State University annual Future of War Conference. Speakers include US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, US Army Training and Doctrine Command’s Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, King’s College London Emeritus Professor of War Studies Sir Lawrence Freedman, former Assistant Secretary of Defense Sharon Burke, former National Security Council Director for Iraq Douglas Ollivant, ‘Newsweek’ Middle East Editor Janine di Giovanni, Caerus Global Solutions founder and Chairman David Kilcullen, Foreign Policy Contributing Editor Tom Ricks, Yale University Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence Director Stathis Kalyvas, former EU Special Representative for Afghanistan’s Deputy Director Michael Semple, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Special Advisor Nir Rosen, and New America President and CEO Anne-Marie Slaughter, Vice President Peter Bergen, and Strategist and Senior Fellow Peter Singer. Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/> [#FutureofWar](https://twitter.com/NatSecNAF). Contacts: New America 1 202 986 2700.

8:15 AM ‘Washington Women Speak: Celebrating Women in Military’ event – ‘Washington Women Speak: Celebrating Women in Military’ event, hosted by Grant Thornton and the Association of Government Accountants Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia Chapters. Panelists include Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Heidi Grant, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Education and Training Anne Davis, US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Adm. Cari Thomas, Office of the Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office Director Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, and IMF Deputy Project Director Carol Holland. Location: Women in Military Service for America Theater, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA www.grantthornton.com/events/public-sector/2016/03-10-washington-women-speak.aspx <https://twitter.com/GrantThornton>. Contacts: Betsy Holahan Great Point Strategies bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com.

8:30 AM NHTSA Administrator Rosekind holds final meeting to discuss ‘spike in roadway deaths’ – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration hosts national gathering of top transportation officials, academic leaders, public health and safety experts, and traffic safety professionals to tackle human behavioral issues that contribute to 94% of crashes, following a series of regional summits across the nation, in the wake of an NHTSA estimate of traffic deaths during the first nine months of 2015 that revealed ‘a sharp increase after years of declines’. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Mark Rosekind also announces the agency’s vision for improving traffic safety over the next 25 years. Location: Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC <http://www.dot.gov/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/usdot>. Contacts: Department of Transportation Public Affairs public.affairs@dot.gov 1 202 366 9550. Space is extremely limited.

10:00 AM Americans for Limited Government release poll on voter attitudes towards TPP – Americans for

Limited Government release new poll by Pat Caddell on voter attitudes toward international trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, via NPC news conference with Caddell, Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions and Americans for Limited Government President Rick Manning. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC [www. GetLiberty.org](http://www.GetLiberty.org) <https://twitter.com/LimitGovt>. Contacts: Robert Romano Americans for Limited Government media@limitgov.org 703 383 0880 x 16.

10:30 AM Wilson Center discussion with Kazakhstani secretary of state – Wilson Center Director's Forum discussion on 'Looking Forward', with Kazakhstani Secretary of State and National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family and Demographics Policy Chairwoman Gulshara Abdykalikova and Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev. Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>. Contacts: Woodrow Wilson Center wwics@wilsoncenter.org 1 202 691 4000.

5:00 PM Korean Ambassador to the UN speaks at GW on sustainable development – Korean Ambassador to the UN Oh Joon delivers George Washington University School of Business' Korean Management Institute lecture on UN sustainable development goals. Location: Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>. Contacts: Jason Shevrin GWU jshevrin@gwu.edu 1 202 994 5631.

6:30 PM SCOTUS Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg receives Champions for Change Award for Vision – International Center for Research on Women 2016 Champions for Change Award Ceremony and Reception, honoring US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with the Champions for Change Award for Vision. Denmark Ambassador to the US Amb. Lars Gert Lose opens the ceremony. Location: Residence of the Danish Ambassador, 3200 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC www.icrw.org. Contacts: Erin Kelly ICRW press ekelly@icrw.org 1 571 265 1110.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to Donald Trump's Tuesday appearance at a press conference in Florida] "Trump was upset that Mitt Romney said a bunch of his business ventures failed, so he set these tables up on stage to showcase some of his many products. There's the water and the wine and the meat. Is this Fox News or QVC?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "Yeah, they're up on the stage next to him as he spoke. It's like he made a trip to Costco right before the speech. Boy did Chris Christie pick the wrong night to be on that stage, huh?"

Stephen Colbert: "President Obama just had a physical, and we found out this morning from White House doctors – this is absolutely true – in the past two years, President Obama has grown half an inch. He's 54 years old. That is very late for puberty to kick in. I'm not sure if that's a change I can actually believe in. ... Is Obama trying to make himself look bigger to intimidate Congress, like how a lizard puffs out its neck frill? Or maybe he's just fudging his height so he can ride the White House roller coaster."

Stephen Colbert: "Every two years, the President gets a physical. I guess the Vice President asks for it to make sure the President is still alive."

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Mendoza, Felipe <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 25, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 7:05 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Interior Approves Blythe Solar Project.](#)
- + [Gov. Sandoval Talks With President Obama About Greater Sage Grouse.](#)
- + [Sen. Feinstein Seeks Three National Monument Designations In California.](#)
- + [Fate Of Utah's Public Lands Up In The Air.](#)
- + [Interior Launches New Website.](#)
- + [Controversy Surrounds Hawaii Statehood Day.](#)
- + [Senators Raise Concerns About Federal Tax Form Processing.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage Of Wildfires.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Praises Lake Link Trail During Dedication Ceremony.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Shenandoah National Park Establishes Sister Park Relationship With Nature Reserve In China.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Secretary Jewell's Visit To Upper Mississippi River National Fish And Wildlife Refuge.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Waco Mammoth Site Becomes National Monument.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Renew LWCF.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Panel Affirms Decisions By BIA By Siding With Elem Indian Colony Of Pomo Indians.](#)
- + [Panel Says BIA Bungled California Trust Land Decision.](#)
- + [BIA Investigating Shooting At Lodge Grass.](#)
- + [Alaska To Challenge Court's Ruling Allowing Alaska Native Tribes To Put Land Into Federal Trust.](#)
- + [Lawsuit Challenges Constitutionality Of Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Act.](#)
- + [Resident Opposes Indian Country Land Status In Alaska.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [OIA Commits To \\$5 Million For Guam Education.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Smith Wants McCarthy To Testify Over Gold King Mine Spill.](#)
- + [BOR Diverts Water To Klamath Water To Avoid Fish Kills.](#)
- + [California's Native Fish An Overlooked Victim Of Drought.](#)
- + [San Diego Pursuing Desalinated Water.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Interior Reviewing Coal Lease Program.](#)
- + [Longer Comment Period Sought On Proposed Stream Rule.](#)
- + [Appalachian Communities Embrace Power Plus Plan.](#)
- + [BLM Approves Two Master Leasing Plans For Drilling In Colorado.](#)

- + [BLM Says Lease Review Proposal Not A Preference.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [California Paddlers Raise Awareness For Offshore Environmental Protection.](#)
- + [Officials Reopen Summerland Beach.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Top Director To Run Buring Man Law Enforcement.](#)
- + [BLM, Texas Ranchers Embroiled In Dispute Over Red River Property.](#)
- + [BLM Crafting Plan To Manage Target Shooting In Utah.](#)
- + [BLM Closes Case On Las Vegas Developer's Proposed Land Swap.](#)
- + [Judge Says Use Of Motorized Vehicles For Juniper Removal In Wilderness Is Prohibited.](#)
- + [Ecologist Argues Wild Horses Should Be Protected.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS Seeks Comments On Critical Habitat Designation For Marbled Murrelets.](#)
- + [Northern Arapaho Tribe Wants Federal Government To Drop Eagle Appeal.](#)
- + [Honeywell Agrees To \\$300,000 Penalty For Releasing Chemicals Into James River.](#)
- + [Point Lay Prepares For Possible Walrus Haulout.](#)
- + [Kentucky Ends Mountain Lion Investigation.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Looking At Sites From Reconstruction Era.](#)
- + [NPS Provides Funding For Sandy-damaged Structures.](#)
- + [Indian River Life-Saving Station Receives NPS Grant.](#)
- + [Work Begins On Jewel Cave Visitor Center Expansion Project.](#)
- + [Yellowstone National Park Seeks Input On Improvement Plan.](#)
- + [NPS: Cause Undetermined In Double Climbing Death At Grand Teton National Park.](#)
- + [Man Dies In Hang-gliding Accident At Golden Gate National Recreation Area.](#)
- + [Saratoga Battlefield Has New Superintendent.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Celebrating Anniversary.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Every Kid In A Park Initiative.](#)
- + [Support Urged For National Park In Katahdin Region.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama Blasts "Fossil Fuel Interests" In Speech At Clean Energy Summit.](#)
- + [Amid Biden Speculation, White House Won't Rule Out Endorsement In Democratic Race.](#)
- + [In Wild Day Of Trading, US And Global Markets Drop Sharply.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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 APPROVES BLYTHE SOLAR PROJECT. [Politico Pro](#) (8/24) reports that the Interior Department on Monday "gave the nod to a 485-megawatt photovoltaic solar farm in California as part of a suite of clean energy executive actions President Barack Obama announced." The Blythe Mesa solar project is "to be built on

3,500 acres of private land formerly used for agriculture in Riverside County.”

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/25, Roth, 99K) reports that among the “flurry of new initiatives” announced by the Administration on Monday was “the approval of a massive solar project in Riverside County.” The “485-megawatt Blythe Mesa solar plant” will “power more than 145,000 homes.” Federal approval was needed because the project’s “transmission lines will cross federal land.”

Obama The [AP](#) (8/25, 127K) reports that “the Wilderness Society’s Chase Huntley called the project a good example ‘of how we can meet our clean energy goals with limited impact to wildlands and wildlife habitat.’”

[Take Part](#) (8/24, 238K) reports “that the Blythe project is moving forward is also a sign that solar energy is becoming increasingly competitive with fossil fuels.” The article notes that “earlier huge solar power plants had only been commercially viable thanks to a 30 percent federal tax credit.” But “that incentive is set to fall to 10 percent at the end of 2016, meaning the Renewable Resources Group likely thinks it can make money without the government largesse.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (8/25, 303K), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (8/25, 1K), [reNews](#) (8/25), and [Recharge News](#) (8/25, 633).

GOV. SANDOVAL TALKS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ABOUT GREATER SAGE GROUSE. The [AP Reno, NV](#) (8/25, 2K) reports that “Gov. Brian Sandoval says he’ll talk privately with President Barack Obama about keeping the greater sage grouse off the endangered species list in Nevada and 10 other Western states.” Sandoval “plans to meet with Obama on Monday, after welcoming him to Las Vegas for a clean energy conference.”

The [AP](#) (8/24, 199K) reports that after the meeting, Sandoval said in a statement, “Today we discussed several pressing issues facing the mountain west including conservation, economic development, and renewable energy. Most importantly, we discussed the critical need for efforts to protect populations of the greater sage-grouse to responsibly align with ongoing development efforts, which I firmly believe is achievable through a conservation plan based on cutting edge science, common sense best practices and collaborative decision-making.” He added, “I am hopeful that our meeting today will serve as a stepping stone as we continue to navigate this important issue. Working together, I’m hopeful that we can preclude the need to list the greater sage-grouse just as we have done with the bi-state sage-grouse.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, 787K), the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (8/25, 101K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, 2.28M), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (8/25, 49K), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/25, 3K).

Mining Group Claims BLM Restrictions Unneeded For Sage Grouse. [E&E Publishing](#) (8/24, 705) reports that the BLM’s “proposed restrictions on miners and off-highway vehicles are unnecessary as sage grouse populations surge across the West, a mining group said today in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.” The American Exploration & Mining Association said the bureau “should abandon proposed land-use plans to conserve grouse habitat on 50 million acres of the West and instead defer to state plans that are beginning to bear fruit.” The group has “denounced BLM’s land-use plans – unveiled in May and set to be finalized within weeks – for recommending that 9 million acres be withdrawn from future hardrock mining claims and placing restrictions on where and when OHVs can access the public estate.”

Report Says New Drilling Could Impact Sage Grouse Recovery In Wyoming. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Obama administration has postponed approving most oil and gas wells within Wyoming’s prime sage grouse habitat, but the industry has over 27,000 wells in the project pipeline in the Cowboy State that could greatly fragment the bird’s best breeding grounds and drive it closer to extinction, according to a report released last week by WildEarth Guardians.” According to the article, “the case study by WildEarth looked at how many oil and gas wells, mines, wind farms, and transmission lines have been built within sage grouse core breeding areas in Wyoming over the past six years and how those have impacted grouse.”

Study: Power Lines Restrict Sage Grouse Movement In Washington. [Science Daily](#) (8/25, 156K) reports that “transmission lines that funnel power from hydroelectric dams and wind turbines across Eastern Washington affect greater sage grouse habitat by isolating fragile populations and limiting movement, a new study finds.” The report, “which looks at how features in the landscape limit the species’ distribution and gene flow, is the first to show that power-line corridors are an obstacle for sage grouse as they move across the

landscape to feed and reproduce.”

SEN. FEINSTEIN SEEKS THREE NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein has “asked President Obama to declare three national monuments protecting more than 1 million acres of Southern California deserts, woodlands, mountains and historical sites.” Her “Aug. 3 letter to Obama, reported Saturday by The Los Angeles Times, urges him to use the Antiquities Act to designate Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments.” The article notes that “the designations, which would require no congressional approval, would protect habitat important to desert tortoises, bighorn sheep and golden eagles while preserving portions of historic Route 66, the Pacific Crest Trail and the headwaters of Southern California’s longest river, the Santa Ana, according to conservation groups and business owners who praised Feinstein’s call.”

FATE OF UTAH’S PUBLIC LANDS UP IN THE AIR. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/24, 549K) reports that “Utah’s public lands face a variety of alternate futures backed by conflicting priorities.” According to the article, “ahead lies a field of options that range from oil and gas development to wilderness designation, the highest level of land preservation afforded by U.S. law.” The article notes that “it’s a dilemma that has played out in neighboring states, which saw different outcomes that could become a reality for Utah.”

Utah Reps. Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop want to turn “what is today the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry in Emery County into a national monument,” and to upgrade the Dinosaur National Monument into a national park. Chaffetz “brought the plans forward during a conversation with the editorial board of the Deseret News on Monday, building on what Bishop has discussed about his public lands proposal for seven counties in eastern Utah.” Meanwhile, “Bishop and his legislative team are currently drafting the bill, which would also set aside lands for designated wilderness, conservation, oil and gas extraction, and consolidate areas under the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.” However, “getting the bill through the White House could be a ‘tough sell,’ Chaffetz conceded.” The article notes that “the proposal would prohibit the president from designating national monuments in the future in any of the seven counties involved in the initiative, similar to policies that prohibit Antiquities Act designations in Wyoming and Alaska.”

INTERIOR LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE. The [FedScoop](#) (8/25) reports that on Friday, the Interior Department “quietly launched an updated DOI.gov that uses a new Drupal-based platform.” According to the article, “Virginia-based technology company Phase2 worked with IBM to build the platform last year,” and “then earlier this year, Phase2 and Fig Leaf Software teamed up to migrate Interior’s content to the new system.” Interior spokeswoman Emily Beyer said, “We’re excited to be launching a new and improved [doi.gov](#). In the coming days we’ll have more to share about the updated look and feel, and the platform supporting it.”

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS HAWAII STATEHOOD DAY. [Yahoo! \(UK\)](#) (8/25, 39K) reports that “controversy circles the 56th anniversary of Hawaii becoming the newest state of the USA on 21 August and there are calls for it to be removed as culturally insensitive to Native Hawaiians.” The article notes that “independent activists are using the public holiday to gather support for Hawaiian sovereignty.” According to the article, “over the summer, the US Department of the Interior held a series of hearings inviting Native Hawaiians to comment on the formation of a federally recognised nation.”

SENATORS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT FEDERAL TAX FORM PROCESSING. [The Hill](#) (8/25, Becker, 471K) reports that “the Senate’s top two tax writers pressed four federal payroll centers on Monday over concerns that key tax forms aren’t being processed quickly enough, which could make life easier for identity thieves.” Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch and the panel’s top Democrat, Sen. Ron Wyden, said “they had heard concerns from state agencies that the four shared-service centers weren’t giving them wage and withholding information quickly enough.” Hatch and Wyden sent a “letter to the Agriculture Department’s National Finance Center, the Pentagon’s Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Interior Department’s National Business Center and the General Service Administration’s National Payroll Branch.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WILDFIRES. Continuing coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, 2.28M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (8/25, 278K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (8/24, 1.05M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/24, Raab, 4.07M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/24, 455K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Volz), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (8/25, 548K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/23, Press, 344K), the [US News & World Report](#) (8/24, 811K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, 787K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/25, 54K), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/24, 46K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [TIME](#) (8/25, Geranios, Melley), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/24, 3.3M), [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (8/25, 1K), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (8/25, 103K), the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/25,

15K), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/24, 32K), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (8/24, 248K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISES LAKE LINK TRAIL DURING DEDICATION CEREMONY. Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony of the Lake Link Trail was provided [Cleveland Scene Magazine](#) (8/24, 29K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHES SISTER PARK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE RESERVE IN CHINA. Additional coverage that "Shenandoah National Park and the Baihuashan National Nature Reserve in China are building on shared similarities in becoming sister parks" was provided by the [Culpeper \(VA\) Star Exponent](#) (8/24, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE. In an editorial, the [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (8/24, 87K) notes that "ten days ago, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell came to La Crosse to tour the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge — an area that brings in 4 million visitors each year." Jewell said, "This is a great example of very accessible public land that can bring the outdoors and nature into people's everyday lives. It's accessible. It supports a desire that visitors to Wisconsin and community members here have to connect with nature."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WACO MAMMOTH SITE BECOMES NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage that "the Waco Mammoth Site became a National Monument on July 10 after President Obama signs executive order" was provided by the [Baylor Lariat \(TX\)](#) (8/24).

CONGRESS URGED TO RENEW LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/23, 183K), Suzy Dix, a member of the board of trustees for The Nature Conservancy for the state of Washington, and board member of the Dishman Hills Conservancy, urges Congress to act on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). She notes that "over the years, the LWCF has made numerous investments in our communities, protecting Tumbull and Little Pend Oreille national wildlife refuges and improving public access to the Colville National Forest." Dix highlights that "these lands are used and loved by hunters, anglers, hikers and wildlife watchers from across the state, and help support a strong outdoor economy here in Spokane County, where outdoor recreation on public lands supports 12,500 jobs and \$1.3 billion in consumer spending each year."

Additional pieces calling for the renewal of the LWCF was carried in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (8/25, Board, 493K), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (8/25, 39K), the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (8/23, 378K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/25, 54K), the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (8/25, 1.03M), the [York \(PA\) Daily Record](#) (8/25, 149K), and the [Tahoe \(CA\) Daily Tribune](#) (8/25, 27K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

PANEL AFFIRMS DECISIONS BY BIA BY SIDING WITH ELEM INDIAN COLONY OF POMO INDIANS. [Law 360](#) (8/25, 21K) reports that "the Interior Board of Indian Appeals affirmed three prior decisions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs rejecting petitions from a California tribal member to nullify a November 2012 tribal election, saying the individual was not barred from the election process and lacked standing to appeal on behalf of third parties." IBIA judges Steven K. Linscheid and Thomas A. Blaser sided with the Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians on Wednesday.

PANEL SAYS BIA BUNGLED CALIFORNIA TRUST LAND DECISION. [Law 360](#) (8/25, 21K) reports that the Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Friday "vacated and remanded a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision to take land in San Diego County into trust for a California tribe, ruling the official who made the decision failed to consider its impact on non-Indian landowners' property rights." At issue is "an application from the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in August 2013 to take around 18 acres of land and related easements into trust."

BIA INVESTIGATING SHOOTING AT LODGE GRASS. The [AP](#) (8/25) reports that "law enforcement officers in Lodge Grass arrested a man who had reportedly been driving around town firing a gun." No one was injured. The BIA is investigating the shooting.

ALASKA TO CHALLENGE COURT'S RULING ALLOWING ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES TO PUT LAND INTO FEDERAL TRUST. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/25, 15K) reports that "the state of Alaska will challenge a federal court ruling that would allow Alaska Native tribes to put land into federal trust, protecting it from state and local taxes." The state filed its appellant brief with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of

Columbia on Monday.

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES CONSTITUTIONALITY OF OKLAHOMA INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (8/25, 364K) reports that “an Oklahoma couple has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of portions of the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Act.” According to the article, “the couple specifically objects to provisions of the Oklahoma act that permit tribes to intervene in private, voluntary adoption cases involving Indian children.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (8/25, 107K).

RESIDENT OPPOSES INDIAN COUNTRY LAND STATUS IN ALASKA. In a piece for the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (8/25, 42K), Mary Bishop lists a “few reasons to avoid Indian country land status in Alaska.” One of the reasons is the BIA “rubber-stamping tribal trust applications.” According to Bishop, the “BIA has a record of rubber-stamping applications for tribal trust land with little if any regard for neighboring complaints and concerns — or else sitting on them forever.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

OIA COMMITS TO \$5 MILLION FOR GUAM EDUCATION. In a piece for the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/24, 61K), Jon Fernandez, the superintendent of the Guam Department of Education, notes that “to assist with facility improvements, the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, has committed \$5 million over five years to address critical health and safety needs, based on the Army Corps of Engineers Report completed in 2013.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

SMITH WANTS MCCARTHY TO TESTIFY OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Richardson, 344K) reports House Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith says he has asked the head of Environmental Restoration LLC to testify before a September 9 hearing on the Gold King Mine spill. Alexander has also called on EPA Administrator McCarthy to testify. In a statement, he said, “Both parties should be prepared to be more forthcoming with Congress than EPA has been up to this point.”

Additional coverage of the spill was provided by [The Hill](#) (8/25, Cama, 471K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/25, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, Paul, 787K).

BOR DIVERTS WATER TO KLAMATH WATER TO AVOID FISH KILLS. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the BOR is “again diverting water to the Klamath River in an attempt to avoid massive fish kills.” The article notes that “three tribes rely on the Oregon river for subsistence fishing, and a fourth is hoping that aging hydroelectric dams could be removed so it can harvest salmon there.” The tribes have “requested a diversion to prevent an outbreak of a gill-rotting disease that spreads in low- and warm-water conditions.” On Friday, the BOR “began releasing water from the Lewiston Dam on the Trinity River, a tributary to the Klamath, in order to avoid a repeat fish kill.”

The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that “agricultural water providers in the Central Valley of California are asking a federal judge to stop releases of extra water intended to help salmon in the Klamath Basin survive the drought.” The legal action “seeking a preliminary injunction was filed late Friday in U.S. District Court in Fresno by Westlands Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, which supply farmers.” The water districts argue the BOR has “no authority to send water that should go down the Sacramento to the Klamath River to help salmon that are not protected by the Endangered Species Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (8/25, 756K), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (8/25, 32K), and [KFMB-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (8/25, 53K).

CALIFORNIA’S NATIVE FISH AN OVERLOOKED VICTIM OF DROUGHT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/25, Boxall, 4.07M) reports that “the drought’s toll on California has been measured mostly in terms of idled cropland, dried up domestic wells and brown lawns,” but “less visible but more devastating has been damage to native fish that struggle for survival in the best of times.” The article notes that “four years of drought — and the accompanying relaxation of environmental standards by state regulators — have compounded the harm of dams and diversions that long ago thwarted fish migration and destroyed habitat.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/25, Fears, 6.76M).

SAN DIEGO PURSUING DESALINATED WATER. In his column for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/25, 535K), Dan Walters writes that “San Diego’s vigorous pursuit not only of desalinated water but other supplies, as well as aggressive conservation, are aimed at making it less dependent on water from Southern California’s Metropolitan Water District, which in turn is highly dependent on water from Northern California via the California Aqueduct and its own aqueduct from the eastern slope of the Sierra.” But “as Southern California becomes less dependent on Northern California water, the rationale for the MWD’s essential support of Brown’s plan to build two water tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta becomes ever-weaker.” San Diego, “the MWD’s largest single subagency, is openly opposed to the tunnels, saying they are not needed to make the region water-independent and will cost too much for the very marginal benefit they will bring.” According to Walters, “thus, in a roundabout way, were Brown to help bring additional desalination supplies on line, he would be undercutting the tunnel project, which he clearly sees as completing the State Water Project his father began and adding to his own political legacy.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR REVIEWING COAL LEASE PROGRAM. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/24, 67K) reports that “the Department of the Interior is leasing millions of acres of federal coal to private mining companies even as the Obama administration ramps up efforts to curb greenhouse gases from coal-burning power plants and natural gas pipelines under the president’s Climate Action Plan.” The article notes that “to environmentalists and some Navajo activists living near coal mines in New Mexico, the disconnect between leasing the coal while clamping down on the climate-changing pollution it causes couldn’t be more stark.” The Interior Department has “spent the last few months listening to public comments about how to revamp the federal coal leasing program.”

LONGER COMMENT PERIOD SOUGHT ON PROPOSED STREAM RULE. The [Southern Illinoisian](#) (8/25, 23K) reports that “some state representatives and a state coal association are calling for brakes on a government agency that is trying to update its rules governing the impact of mining on surface and ground waters, wildlife and the environment.” State Sen. Gary Forby, Sen. Sam McCann, and the president of the Illinois Coal Association “want the U.S. Department of the Interior to slow movement on its Draft Stream Protection Rule.” According to the article, “though the government entity has proposed taking comments on that change for another month — until Sept. 25, 2015 — opponents are asking that the comment period be extended for at least 180 days, or six months.”

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITIES EMBRACE POWER PLUS PLAN. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that “roughly a dozen communities across Appalachia have passed resolutions supporting President Obama’s plan to help areas reeling from the coal mining downturn.” The Power Plus Plan “includes grants through several agencies” and “it also expedites \$1 billion in spending from the abandoned coal mine cleanup fund and would shore up miner pensions.” The article notes that “communities that have called for Congress to approve the plan in recent weeks include Campbell County, Tenn.; Wise County, Va.; and Harlan County, Ky.”

BLM APPROVES TWO MASTER LEASING PLANS FOR DRILLING IN COLORADO. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM “continues to advance onshore oil and gas reforms, approving two new master leasing plans in northern Colorado that include drilling restrictions designed to protect sensitive wildlife across thousands of acres.” BLM Colorado State Director Ruth Welch “announced Friday that she finalized two records of decision approving the Dinosaur Trail and the Shale Ridges and Canyons master leasing plans (MLPs).” Welch said “the plans will balance natural resource protections with the development of federal lands and subsurface mineral estate.”

BLM SAYS LEASE REVIEW PROPOSAL NOT A PREFERENCE. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/25, 73K) reports that the BLM is “warning against reading too much into the fact that it is considering retention of 65 oil and gas leases on the White River National Forest as its proposed action in an upcoming draft environmental review.” Spokesman David Boyd said the bureau is “required to identify a proposed action when it lays out alternatives for consideration in its draft environmental impact statement, but that’s different from a preferred alternative.” He said, “Even though the wording suggests that that’s what we’re saying we want to do, that’s just the action that initiates” the EIS process. Boyd was “responding to concerns raised by Pitkin County officials last week.”

Offshore Energy Development:

CALIFORNIA PADDLERS RAISE AWARENESS FOR OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The [Daily Beast](#) (8/24, Joiner, 978K) reports that “a flotilla of Californians” organized by the Surfrider Foundation paddled about three miles to an offshore oil platform off of Santa Barbara, where they unfurled a 70-foot-long floating banner that read “#CrudeAwakening” to raise awareness for several bills that they claim would increase offshore environmental protection. Specifically, the group supports bills SB788, SB414, AB864 and SB295 that would “close a loophole that allows new drilling in a designated Marine Protected Area, establish a mandatory team of trained seamen to act as emergency responders to any spills, require companies to use the ‘best available technology’ on pipelines, and improve inspection requirements.”

OFFICIALS REOPEN SUMMERLAND BEACH. The [AP](#) (8/25) reports that Santa Barbara County officials have reopened Summerland beach, stating that immediate health concerns have diminished, although it is still unclear where the oil is coming from. The article notes that natural oil seepage from the ocean floor is common in the area, “and there are also old wells in the area.”

America’s Great Outdoors:***Bureau of Land Management:***

BLM TOP DIRECTOR TO RUN BURNING MAN LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/21, 179K) reports that the BLM has “opted for a change of leadership and has designated the highest ranking law enforcement director in the agency to oversee federal law enforcement operations at Burning Man this year.” According to BLM spokesman Jeff Krawse, “Washington, D.C.-based BLM Law Enforcement and Security Director Salvatore Lauro will be the senior BLM law enforcement official on scene throughout the event.” The article notes that “in recent years, Special Agent-in-charge Dan Love of Utah, whose jurisdiction also includes Nevada, has overseen law enforcement operations at Burning Man,” and “Burning Man officials and former BLM director Bob Abbey named Love, along with BLM Winnemucca District manager Gene Seidlitz, in a series of emails that stated Love and Seidlitz were behind a list of unprecedented demands from the BLM.”

BLM, TEXAS RANCHERS EMBROILED IN DISPUTE OVER RED RIVER PROPERTY. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports on the dispute over Red River property between the BLM and Texas ranchers.

BLM CRAFTING PLAN TO MANAGE TARGET SHOOTING IN UTAH. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/25, 492K) reports that “after years of damage and conflicts with nearby property owners, the BLM has started crafting a plan to manage target shooting on 9,000 acres of federal land on the eastern slope of the Lake Mountains.” In a related move, the bureau “proposes giving 160 acres to Utah County to operate a public shooting range.” Bekee Hotze, the BLM’s Salt Lake field office manager, said, “We are not trying to exclude a user group. We are trying to enhance the multiple uses on the land. But it can’t be every use everywhere.”

BLM CLOSING CASE ON LAS VEGAS DEVELOPER’S PROPOSED LAND SWAP. The [AP Tucson, AZ](#) (8/25, 23K) reports that “a Las Vegas developer isn’t getting access to an aquifer in the Red Lake area after failing to respond to a Bureau of Land Management information request.” Kingman Farms owner Jim Rhodes “proposed a 21,000-acre land swap that drew concern over the access it would have given him to area water sources.” Colorado River District Manager Roxie Trost said the BLM “requested more information on the exchange more than two months ago, but the case was closed when Rhodes didn’t respond.”

JUDGE SAYS USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES FOR JUNIPER REMOVAL IN WILDERNESS IS PROHIBITED. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (8/24, 113K) reports that “a federal judge has ruled that it’s unlawful to use motorized vehicles to remove juniper from nearly 80,000 acres in the vicinity of Oregon’s Steens Mountain.” The BLM is “cutting juniper from roughly 336,000 acres in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Area because the trees are crowding out native vegetation.” U.S. District Judge Garr King held that “using motorized vehicles within ‘wilderness study areas’ is prohibited by a federal law that governs management of the Steens Mountain area.”

ECOLOGIST ARGUES WILD HORSES SHOULD BE PROTECTED. In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/24, 179K), Craig C. Downer, a wildlife ecologist, argues that “wild horses should qualify as

endangered 'distinct population units' for protection under the Endangered Species Act." According to Downer, "they quickly revert to the wild and adapt harmoniously and in complementary manner to each unique ecosystem, yet they are being either eliminated from their legal lands or brought to sub-viable, mere token population levels by their unjust enemies, including betrayers in the very branches of our government charged with protecting them – the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service!" Downer concludes that "we must quickly rectify this miserable situation and learn to share the land and freedom with such magnificent and highly evolved beings, as the progressive Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act still intends."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS SEEKS COMMENTS ON CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATION FOR MARBLED MURRELETS. [The Hill](#) (8/25, Wheeler, 471K) reports that the FWS is "asking the public to comment on the areas in Washington, Oregon and California it has designated as a critical habitat for marbled murrelet." According to the article, "the current designation includes 3.7 million acres, but the agency is asking for help determining whether all of that area meets the statutory definition of critical habitat."

NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE WANTS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DROP EAGLE APPEAL. [The AP](#) (8/25) reports that "the Northern Arapaho Tribe is calling on the federal government to drop a legal appeal that's blocking the tribe from killing bald eagles for religious purposes on the central Wyoming reservation it shares with another tribe." According to the article, "the federal government in June appealed this spring's decision by U.S. District Judge Alan B. Johnson of Cheyenne that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the religious rights of the Northern Arapaho by denying the tribe permission to kill bald eagles for its annual Sun Dance." The agency's "appeal of Johnson's ruling is pending in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver and the agency has just over a month left to file a brief laying out its arguments."

HONEYWELL AGREES TO \$300,000 PENALTY FOR RELEASING CHEMICALS INTO JAMES RIVER. [WWBT-TV](#) Richmond, VA (8/25, 94K) reports that "Honeywell has agreed to pay a \$300,000 penalty for releasing chemicals into the James River from its Hopewell manufacturing facility, according to officials with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality." The firm "signed a consent order calling for the fine and additional repairs, which will cost more than \$13 million, to prevent future spills." The article notes that "in addition to the proposed enforcement action, DEQ and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are coordinating to address natural resource damages caused by past spills."

POINT LAY PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE WALRUS HAULOUT. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/22, 219K) reports that "in case thousands of walrus haul out again this year on the shores of Point Lay, the village is taking a proactive step to ensure that they are protected from the glare of international media attention." According to the article, "in a release this week from various wildlife agencies in conjunction with the Native Village of Point Lay, the town asked that media keep their distance."

KENTUCKY ENDS MOUNTAIN LION INVESTIGATION. [The Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (8/24, 414K) reports that "Kentucky wildlife officials are concluding that someone brought the mountain lion that was shot last year into the state, but they don't know who might have done it and have suspended their investigation." Also, "the official necropsy of the mountain lion found that there was 'no conclusive evidence the animal is of captive origin.'" The article notes that "the animal's DNA likely linked it to a wild population in South Dakota, testing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found."

Additional coverage was provided by [WKYT-TV Lexington \(KY\)](#) Lexington, KY (8/25, 116K) and [WTVQ-TV Lexington \(KY\)](#) Lexington, KY (8/25, 1K).

National Park Service:

NPS LOOKING AT SITES FROM RECONSTRUCTION ERA. [The New York Times](#) (8/25, Schuessler, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the NPS has "hired two historians to conduct its first comprehensive survey of 'nationally significant' sites connected with Reconstruction — the first step toward possible designation of a new site by Congress." The article notes that "the initiative was announced in May," and "since then, the massacre of nine African-Americans at a church in Charleston, S.C., in the midst of continuing debates over the Black Lives Matter campaign, has only underlined the enduring relevance of an era that saw both the dramatic expansion of rights for African-Americans and their violent rollback." The NPS is "looking at sites across the country," but "if there's a logical place to center an uplifting story of Reconstruction, many say, it's the area around Beaufort, a picturesque city of 13,000 that sits between several popular tourist

destinations: Charleston and Hilton Head Island in South Carolina and Savannah, Ga.”

NPS PROVIDES FUNDING FOR SANDY-DAMAGED STRUCTURES. [New Jersey Local News](#) (8/25, 837K) reports that “the City of Trenton has received \$17,475 in grant money for the replacement of 10 windows at the former Roebling Machine Shop that were damaged in Hurricane Sandy.” The article notes that “the Machine Shop was among dozens of historic properties that were able to make storm repairs through a federally-supported \$8 million grant program.” The NPS “provided the funding, while the state’s historic preservation office along with the New Jersey Historic Trust — an agency connected with the state Department of Community Affairs — administered the grants.”

INDIAN RIVER LIFE-SAVING STATION RECEIVES NPS GRANT. The [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (8/25, 42K) reports that “the Indian River Life-Saving Station Museum, located in Delaware Seashore State Park, has been awarded a grant of just over \$25,000 through the Maritime Heritage Grants Program of the National Park Service.”

WORK BEGINS ON JEWEL CAVE VISITOR CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that “work began Monday on a \$671,000 expansion project for the visitor center at Jewel Cave National Monument in western South Dakota.” Acting Superintendent Donald Hart said, “This expansion will improve the visitor experience by making it easier for visitors to enter and exit the cave, as well as providing more space for those waiting for a cave tour.” The NPS has said “the 15,000-square-foot expansion will mean more space for environmental education, including classrooms, theater space and educational display space.”

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SEEKS INPUT ON IMPROVEMENT PLAN. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that Yellowstone National Park is “seeking public comment on a plan to rehabilitate many of the overlooks and trails along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River.” The NPS says “the project would rehabilitate a number of existing overlooks and trails situated along both the north and south rims of the canyon.” The article notes that “areas to be rehabilitated include: the Brink of the Upper Falls overlooks and trails, the Brink of the Lower Falls overlook and trail, Inspiration Point overlook and trail, and portions of the North and South Rim Trails.”

NPS: CAUSE UNDETERMINED IN DOUBLE CLIMBING DEATH AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has “no word yet on what caused two women climbers to fall to their deaths at Grand Teton National Park over the weekend.” The climbers, 27-year-old Tyler Strandberg and 28-year-old Catherine Nix, “died Saturday morning after falling about 200 feet while trying to climb 12,300-foot Teewinot Mountain, the sixth-tallest peak in the Teton Range.” According to park spokesman Andrew White, “a third member of the climbing party, 26-year-old Rebecca Anderson of Jackson, was rescued unhurt from a small ledge by helicopter.”

Additional coverage was provided by [NBC News](#) (8/25, 3.73M), [Reuters](#) (8/24, Zuckerman), [Fox News](#) (8/24, 8.91M), and [TIME](#) (8/25, 19.55M).

MAN DIES IN HANG-GLIDING ACCIDENT AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that “a 69-year-old man has died in a hang-gliding accident in San Francisco’s Golden Gate National Recreation Area.” The NPS said “in a statement that the accident occurred Sunday afternoon immediately after takeoff and may have involved a mechanical failure.” According to the article, “park police and fire department paramedics found the man 30 feet down the side of a cliff below the hang-gliding launch pad at Fort Funston in the recreation area.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/25, 345K).

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD HAS NEW SUPERINTENDENT. The [Saratogian \(NY\)](#) (8/21, 22K) reports that Amy Bracewell is the new superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park. She said, “I’m really impressed by the landscapes here. We’re very lucky to have such supportive neighbors and towns that understand the value of preserving these views.” Bracewell, “who took over in mid-July, replaces former long-time park superintendent Joseph Finan who has retired.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY. Additional coverage of that the NPS is celebrating its 99th birthday this Tuesday was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/24, 3K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, 2.28M), the [Knoxville \(TN\) Daily Sun](#) (8/25), the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/25, Staff, 235K), the [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (8/24, 23K), and [WATE-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (8/24, 59K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EVERY KID IN A PARK INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Every Kid in a Park Initiative was provided by [KFOX-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (8/25, Marshall, 1K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NATIONAL PARK IN KATAHDIN REGION. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/24, 223K), Lisa Pohlmann, executive director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Ken Olson, chair of the Acadia National Park Maine-wide Centennial Working Group, argue in favor of creating a national park in the Katahdin region. The authors write, "in 2015, the 99th year of the National Park Service and Acadia, we have the opportunity to create the nation's next national park with all the conservation, recreation, economic and community status benefits it would produce." They urge Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree and Bruce Poliquin to "make it happen."

Top National News:

OBAMA BLASTS "FOSSIL FUEL INTERESTS" IN SPEECH AT CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT. Print and online coverage of the President's speech at the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas focuses on two main areas: the announcement of new executive actions aimed at promoting more clean power projects across the country, and the President's criticism of "fossil fuel" interests that oppose his agenda. The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Mooney, 6.76M) says the President's appearance at the summit "was the first stop in a climate and energy-focused tour that will also take the president to New Orleans and Arctic Alaska this month." In a story posted Monday evening, [USA Today](#) (8/24, Korte, 5.23M) reports that during the tour, the President "will deliver a three-pronged message: The United States needs to increase the use of alternative energy sources, make coastal communities more resilient and urge a global response to climate change."

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (8/25, Roerink, Shine, 199K) reports that the President said "now 'is not the time to pull back' on federal investment in renewable energy projects," adding that "the nation as a whole was in the middle of a large-scale transition towards new forms of energy production." The Sun also notes that the President's appearance at the summit "underscores his close relationship with [Senate Minority Leader] Reid," adding that they "have been among the most outspoken on climate change and have worked on projects to cut the prices of solar panels and reduce carbon emissions."

[Politico](#) (8/24, Restuccia, Dovere, 942K) says the President "wielded" his "yes we can" campaign slogan "to hail the green energy revolution" and "to bash the critics who he said were desperately clinging to the past as a renewable energy future approaches," noting that he "lit into fossil fuel interests, pointedly calling out the Koch brothers, Reid's longtime foes." [USA Today](#) (8/24, Korte, 5.23M) reports that the President "made a political and an economic case for solar energy," noting that "the explosive growth in solar power 'has some big fossil fuel interests pretty nervous.'"

[Voice of America](#) (8/24, 32K) noted on its website that the President's speech "was aimed at countering fossil fuel and utility interests that have been working to undercut clean energy policies with arguments that the matter should be left to the free market." The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Boyer, Wolfgang, 344K) says the President accused "conservative opponents of his climate change agenda...of carrying out an un-American campaign to protect their fossil fuel interests at the expense of the country." He also "chided congressional Republicans for fighting higher spending on his clean energy agenda and instead 'chasing mindless austerity.'"

[National Journal](#) (8/24, Plautz, Subscription Publication, 144K) noted on its website that the President "highlighted the efforts that private companies and even some utilities...have made to invest in renewable energy or allow homeowners to go green," noting that those measures "stand in contrast...to the efforts of 'fossil fuel interests or conservative interests or the Koch Brothers' to roll back renewable energy incentives." On its website, [CBS News](#) (8/25, 8.2M) says the President "highlighted the unusual coalition of tea party activists and environmentalists that supports solar power," saying, "It is rare the tea party and I are on the same side of an issue...I agree with them here."

An [AP](#) (8/25, Ritter) story noted that Obama was using the summit "to announce new executive actions and other efforts aimed at making it easier for homeowners and businesses to invest in green energy improvements." [Reuters](#) (8/25, Edwards) says the President discussed new financial incentives to encourage the development and use of solar power including \$1 billion in loan guarantees for new research projects and savings for homeowners who use renewable energy. The [Blaze](#) (8/24, 1.66M) reported that the President's "package of executive actions includes \$1 billion in new taxpayer subsidies to the green energy industry and homeowners, while also promoting existing \$10 billion in loan programs." A [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/24, Unger, 455K) analysis describes the new initiatives as "modest, especially when compared to the sector-wide Clean Power

Plan finalized earlier this month.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Harris, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) provides more detail on the Administration measures “to encourage the use of solar power,” which were announced “hours before President Obama was scheduled to fly to Nevada to speak at the National Clean Energy Summit there,” and notes that for the President, the measures and the speech Monday “are part of an increasingly intense effort to highlight the dangers of climate change and implement policies to address them.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Mooney, 6.76M) says the announcement that the Administration will seek to expand the loan program was “heralded by the solar industry.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/25, 213K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/25, 344K), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/24, Dorning, 2.66M), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/25, Dorning, Olorunnipa, 2.66M), [Reuters](#) (8/25), and [Reuters](#) (8/25, Edwards).

Reid: Utilities Should Take A Lesson From “Moneyball.” [Roll Call](#) (8/24, Lesniewski, 113K) reported in its “#WGDB” blog that as Reid kicked off the summit Monday, he likened “utility companies that undervalue renewable power to an ill-managed baseball team,” saying, “Nevada and electric utilities should learn from ‘Moneyball.’ Just as Major League Baseball was stuck in the past, electric utilities continue to rely upon business models from past centuries. Companies you will hear today are developing new energy technologies and services of which Thomas Edison never dreamed.” Reid compared the efforts of former Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane, “with electric utilities like Nevada Energy, saying ‘utilities cannot remain attached to the past.’” Reid added, “The Athletics began using an analytical, evidence-based approach to assemble a baseball team. With the help of state-of-the-art computer software, the team analyzed the value of every player; identified how to fully utilize their talents; and maximized the team’s return on investment.” The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/25, 378K) says Reid “helped unveil a new 80-acre ‘community solar generation project’ to be managed by Pahrump-based Valley Electric Association.” The project “will create 200 jobs and an unspecified amount of new tax revenue, said Valley Electric CEO Tom Husted.”

Switch Joins Obama’s Climate Action Plan. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (8/25, Roemik, 199K) notes that the Nevada data company Switch has become the first company in the state “to sign the White House’s American Businesses Act on Climate Pledge,” which seeks to build support for the President’s Climate Action Plan.

AMID BIDEN SPECULATION, WHITE HOUSE WON’T RULE OUT ENDORSEMENT IN DEMOCRATIC RACE. All three broadcast networks reported in some detail on the increasing speculation that Vice President Biden will enter the presidential race, with each giving the story about two minutes of coverage. Reports focus on Biden’s meetings with President Obama and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Biden’s prospects against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, and on how Obama might deal with an unexpected nomination fight between two of the most prominent members of his Administration.

[ABC World News](#) (8/24, story 3, 2:05, Stephanopolous, 5.84M) reported that “all eyes on” Biden after his “secret meeting” with Warren over the weekend and his lunch with the President today, saying that speculation on a Biden run is at a “fever pitch, which could put President Obama in an awkward spot: Does he endorse Hillary or Joe?” ABC’s Jon Karl asked White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest about the speculation at his daily briefing, with Earnest responding, “The President has indicated that to add Joe Biden to the ticket as his running mate was the smartest decision that he had ever made in politics.” Many of the other reports focus on Earnest’s response to Karl. [Reuters](#) (8/25, Mason), meanwhile, reports that in his comments, Earnest also said, “I wouldn’t rule out the possibility of...an endorsement in the Democratic primary.” [Politico](#) (8/24, Gass, 942K) notes that Earnest said Obama “is not ‘tom’ over the issue...as running for president is an ‘intensely personal decision.’”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/24, story 6, 1:55, O’Donnell, 5.08M) reported that Obama “had lunch with his vice president” on Monday, and “it appears the menu included presidential politics.” CBS (Goldman) added, “Sources tell CBS News that President Obama has given his vice president the green light to mull a White House run,” though “a Biden candidacy could be awkward for the President with his former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic front-runner.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/24, story 6, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) said that “a big dilemma is emerging” for Obama “amid more signs that Vice President Biden is seriously considering challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination.” As for Biden’s meeting with Warren, NBC’s Peter Alexander said it “has electrified the political world, especially liberal Democrats not sold on Clinton, many of whom have flocked to Bernie Sanders.” Sanders: “Joe would be a formidable opponent. I’m not sure who politically it would help.”

The [AP](#) (8/25, Pace) says Biden “has been ramping up discussions” about whether he will run, which “would put

Obama in an awkward spot." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says that while there now seems to be a real chance that Biden will enter the race, he would have a hard time catching up with Clinton's fundraising. The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Gold, 6.76M) reports Biden has invited "major Democratic fundraisers" to his US Naval Observatory residence after Labor Day. [The Hill](#) (8/24, Richardson, 471K) also reports on the planned meeting.

Jonathan Allen of [Vox](#) (8/24, 1.1M) writes that Biden "starts with a huge fundraising deficit and polling numbers that have been consistently between 10 percent and 15 percent for the last month. ... So, it's an uphill battle for Biden, even with the working-class voters on whom he's staked his appeal as a candidate. That doesn't mean he won't do it. He's run and lost twice before."

Dan Balz writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) that "personal issues stand as the biggest unresolved obstacle" for Biden, who is "trying to gauge whether his family is emotionally prepared for a grueling campaign while still grieving over the recent death of his son Beau." Those close to the Biden family say he is "now leaning more toward running than he was earlier in the summer, though he is still weeks from a decision."

William McGurn of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a Biden entry could help to distance the White House from the ongoing questions about Clinton's email server. But the [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Boyer, 344K) reports Eamest did say it is "too early for Democrats to worry about" Clinton's "faltering" campaign. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (8/24, Chipman, 247K), and [The Hill](#) (8/24, Fabian, 471K), and the [NPR](#) (8/24, 1.85M) website run similar reports.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorial says Eamest would not have commented that the President thinks his decision to choose Biden as a running mate was "the smartest decision he's ever made in politics" without the President's approval, which raises questions about the White House's feelings about Clinton's candidacy and what the President and Biden know about the controversy surrounding her private email server.

Podesta Says He Is Not Nervous About Possible Biden Run. [Politico](#) (8/24, Restuccia, 942K) reports Clinton campaign chair John Podesta said Monday "that he isn't losing sleep over the possibility that Joe Biden will jump into the race." Podesta told reporters, "Am I nervous? No. ... It's his decision to make about whether he's going to get in. But I'm convinced that we have a strong campaign – that she's the right candidate." [USA Today](#) (8/25, Gaudiano, 5.23M) says Biden and Clinton "have a long history together," and a Biden run would "test that friendship."

Warren Supporters "Lukewarm" On Biden. [Politico](#) (8/24, Debenedetti, 942K) writes that despite Biden's meeting with Warren, many of those who tried to draft the Massachusetts senator into the presidential race are "lukewarm on him." That is "a considerable problem because Biden, to be successful, would need to appeal to a large majority of progressives who are disenchanted with Clinton, while persuading them that he's a better vehicle for their beliefs than Sanders."

Biden Has "Packed September Schedule." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/24, Talev, 2.66M) says Biden "is gearing up for a packed September schedule in his day job that could showcase him as the politician best poised to carry on" Obama's policies, "or open him up to new lines of attack if he stumbles. These include mid-September votes in Congress on an Iran deal that Biden has been deeply involved in promoting; visits to Washington by Pope Francis and Chinese President Xi Jinping; a looming budget showdown; and administration efforts on climate change, renewing the Export-Import Bank's charter, criminal justice reform and closing the terrorism detention facility at Guantanamo Bay."

Biden Selects MPAA's Bedingfield As New Communications Director. The [AP](#) (8/24, Ledeman) reports Biden "has chosen a top film industry official and former spokeswoman for John Edwards' 2008 presidential campaign to be his new communications director." Kate Bedingfield was most recently vice president of corporate communications for the Motion Picture Association of America. [Variety](#) (8/24, Johnson, 552K) says Bedingfield "joined the MPAA in 2011, before which she was associate communications director at the White House." The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Boyer, 344K) and [Hollywood Reporter](#) (8/24, Vlessing, 736K) also report on the choice.

IN WILD DAY OF TRADING, US AND GLOBAL MARKETS DROP SHARPLY. The sharp drops that afflicted global financial markets on Monday are the top news item across the media spectrum including all three network newscasts, which devoted a combined 10 minutes to the story. The media consensus is that investors are extremely concerned over the slowdown of growth in the Chinese economy. Media accounts are using terms

like "frenzy," "wild," and "chaos" to describe the situation.

The [AP](#) (8/25, McDonald) reports that the Dow dropped 588.47 points to 15,871.28, while the S&P 500 index fell 77.68 points to 1,893.21 and the Nasdaq Composite Index was down 179.79 points to 4,526.25. [USA Today](#) (8/25, Shell, 5.23M) reports that the "selling spree" has "has now infected every corner of the US stock market." The Dow, "small-company Russell 2000, large-company S&P 500 and tech-dominated Nasdaq composite are all down more than 10% from their record peaks from earlier this year and in full-fledged corrections."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Harwell, 6.76M) reports that the "worldwide selling frenzy" came as "investors worried over China's slowing economy extended a global-market meltdown." The "global whiplash underscored investors' shaken confidence in China's slowing economy and central bank." The [New York Times](#) (8/25, A1, Popper, Gough, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that investors' "concerns over China's economic slowdown and a souring view of emerging economies have rattled financial markets around the world in recent days, and showed no signs of letting up."

[AFP](#) (8/25, Jackson, Zhang) reports that Chinese stocks "have tumbled since peaking in mid-June and authorities have launched broad interventions to try to restrain the drops, but Beijing's latest market intervention has failed to restore confidence." [Reuters](#) (8/25, Agrawal) similar says that a lack of new market-stabilization effort in China following last week's rout drove the declines.

In an analysis piece, the [New York Times](#) (8/25, Irwin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the "immediate trigger to the outburst of global volatility was China." However, looking deeper, the "fact that the Chinese government has pulled out unprecedented steps to try to contain the stock market sell-off, to little avail, may suggest limitations on the power of even the mighty Chinese state."

More technically, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Driebusch, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that the day's early drop came as investors looked to protect themselves against earlier losses in overseas markets, along with a series of stop-loss orders, which are designed to protect investors by selling stocks if they fall to a certain level.

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Schwartz, Abrams, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that as the market tanked in early trading, financial advisers and others, including Apple CEO Tim Cook, worked to calm fearful investors. While it worked for a while, by the end of the day, "Apple and the rest of the market had yielded to the gravitational pull of investor fear."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/25, Peltz, 4.07M) reports that Wall Street "endured a wild ride" on Monday. However, the piece reports that several financial professionals were not rattled by the drop. For example, Chris Hardt of Edward Jones said, "The market will pull back 10% about once a year on average. This is a normal thing," while Michael Kanigher, a USB managing director, suggests that the markets still appear strong.

The [Huffington Post](#) (8/24, Kaufman, 164K) reports that worldwide, markets "tumbled toward historic losses amid a toxic cocktail of financial volatility." For example, the pan-European Stoxx 600 index "fell nearly 6 percent on Monday morning," while London's FTSE 100 stock index "plunged more than 5 percentage points."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Denyer, 6.76M) reports that the "market slide continued Tuesday across Asia." [USA Today](#) (8/25, Toppo, 5.23M) reports that in early trading on Tuesday, Japan's Nikkei index fell "nearly 4%," while China's Shanghai Composite index declined 7.6%, and "is now below the psychologically important 3,000 level." Both indexes are building on substantial losses on Monday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (8/24, lead story, 2:15, Stephanopolous, 5.84M) reported that Wall Street had its "worst day in more than four years after the second worst on Friday." it was a "chain reaction that started in China." ABC (Jarvis) said that "even veteran traders" were "stunned by the drop." White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said, "What I would encourage people to evaluate is the ongoing strength and resilience of the US economy." However, ABC added that "to many on Wall Street, with stocks up nearly 60 percent over the last five years, today's slide was long overdue."

In its lead story, The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/24, lead story, 2:15, O'Donnell, 5.08M) reported that the multi-day declines are "wiping out market gains back to February of last year." CBS (Mason) said it was a "breathtaking ride even for veteran traders." In a second piece, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/24, story 2, 1:00, O'Donnell, 5.08M) gave advice for those with 401(k) plans. CBS (Schlesinger) said, "Sit tight and do nothing. Remember, I know it can be scary here, but let's say you had sold at the bottom of the bear market in 2009. The Dow is at 6,500."

You would have missed that nearly tripling of the index to 18,000.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/24, lead story, 3:00, Holt, 7.86M) reported, “A lot of investment portfolios including retirement nest eggs shrank today when stocks took another stunning fall. And experts warn we may need a strong stomach because this up and down ride is likely not over.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/24, story 2, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M) ran an interview with CNBC’s Jim Cramer, who looks at how to respond for investors in various age brackets. Looking forward, Cramer suggests that the market downturn is likely to continue in the short term.

Administration Stresses US Economy Remains Strong. [Reuters](#) (8/24) reports that the White House said on Monday that the President had been briefed on developments in the financial markets. White House spokesman Josh Earnest stressed that the US economy remains strong and that US officials are continuing to press China to pursue financial reforms. The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Sands, 344K) reports that Earnest also “said the market turmoil was another argument to avoid ‘self-inflicted wounds’ to the US economy, calling on Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank and to ease spending caps on domestic investment programs.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Taylor, 344K) separately reports that the Administration “pleaded with Beijing to be more transparent about its economy to win back investor confidence.” Earnest said, “A more transparent economy is one that will benefit not just the Chinese economy but the global economy.”

[The Hill](#) (8/24, Schroeder, 471K) reports that the Treasury Department, “through a spokesman, downplayed the drama by saying it was closely monitoring the matter but does not comment on day-to-day market developments.” The Hill adds that there is “ample evidence that, beyond the stock market hit, the US economy is on solid ground.”

Several pieces in the latest news cycle suggest that the US economy remains resilient enough, at least for now, to avoid a significant problem from the market issues. [McClatchy](#) (8/24, Hall, 28K) looks at the major economies around the world and says that the US economy “looks like the cleanest shirt in the dirty pile.” In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, A1, Hilsenrath, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that while few believe that the situation will trigger a recession, given the general US economic strength, it could have a significant impact if the dollar soars and cuts into exports. However, in another front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, A1, Driebusch, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that in the wake of the sharp market drops, investors are still trying to determine if it is a short-term pullback or a precursor to more significant trouble.

WPost: US Leaders Need To Avoid Budget Clashes As World Market Swoons. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) says that US needs to drive stronger world economic growth. The President and the GOP Congress “need to take the news from markets seriously, as a reminder of how fragile the global recovery remains, and how vulnerable it is to any new shocks.” As a result, it is “now doubly important that they avoid market-churning drama over the federal debt ceiling and other budgetary deadlines looming this fall.”

Speculation Emerges That Crisis Could Delay Fed Rate Increase. [Politico](#) (8/24, Warmbrodt, Prior, 942K) reports that the market turmoil “may have shattered the Fed’s carefully laid plans for an increase in the main borrowing rate as soon as September.” [USA Today](#) (8/25, Krantz, Davidson, 5.23M) reports that the “stomach-churning volatility” in the markets “could be just the thing to let the Federal Reserve off the hook.” USA Today adds that “some wonder if the stock market’s sudden turbulence raises enough doubt about the economy to hold off the Fed even longer and back away from taking up short-term interest rates in the upcoming September meeting.”

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/24, Matthews, Vekshin, 2.66M) reports that Atlanta Fed President Dennis Lockhard “said he continues to expect the first interest-rate hike in nearly a decade this year, while cautioning that a stronger dollar, a weaker Chinese yuan and falling oil prices complicate the outlook.”

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, A11, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), Harvard professor Martin Feldstein blames the Fed’s stimulus policies for boosting many stocks beyond their normal level, making them ripe for a sharp selloff.

Trump, Walker Call For Rethink Of China Relations. [Reuters](#) (8/25, Lambert) reports that Donald Trump said he had warned about US exposure to a Chinese downturn. Trump said on Fox News, “I’ve been talking about China for years. Because China’s going bad it’s going to bring us down, too, because we’re so heavily coupled with China. I’m the one that says you better start un-coupling from China because China’s got problems.” [Politico](#) (8/24, White, 942K) reports that despite Trump’s rhetoric, “the facts are that the US economy is not

actually highly tied to China” and “many market strategists believe the US market was ripe for a significant correction with valuations at historic highs” and concerns over the expected Fed rate hike.

The [AP](#) (8/25) reports that Gov. Scott Walker, for his part, said that Obama “needs to have some ‘backbone’ and cancel a planned official state visit next month by the president of China.” Walker said that the President “should hold China accountable for what he calls its ‘increasing attempts to undermine US interests,’” including “massive cyber attacks against America, its militarization of the South China Sea, continued state interference with its economy, and persistent persecution of Christians and human rights activists.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Mullany, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports on Trump and Walker’s comments, and adds the Gov. Chris Christie “joined the criticism of China,” arguing that the federal debt “has been given to us in large measure by the Chinese” and “as the Chinese markets have a correction,” it will have a significant impact on the US. The Times adds that for the candidates, “the criticism may be less politically costly than focusing on immigration.”

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M), Eugene Robinson writes that the market turmoil “could make voters pay more attention to the candidates’ records on economic and financial management — and might give a boost to those with experience, as opposed to promise.” That could give a “bump” to Hillary Clinton, but he sees it as a negative for most GOP candidates.

[Politico](#) (8/24, Ehley, 942K) reports that “televangelist” Pat Robertson said on Monday that the market sell-off was “God’s way of punishing the Obama administration for supporting abortion rights and funding Planned Parenthood, not the reverberations of China’s stock-market crash.”

China Looks To Adapt To New Economic Realities. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, A1, Denyer, 6.76M) reports that China’s economy is “undergoing a painful transition that has left heavy industry reeling and set investors’ nerves jangling.” The piece focuses on the impact on the three provinces of Northeastern China, known as the “Rust Belt,” whose “challenges” today “reflect many of the challenges that China faces as a nation: to curtail the power of state-owned enterprises and allow market forces to play a greater role, to find new drivers of growth now that the export, infrastructure and housing-led boom is playing out, and to reform the economy without causing more pain and upheaval.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Harvard economics professor Kenneth Rogoff “has long warned of a potential financial crisis in China.” Rogoff is particularly concerned about the amount of Chinese debt.

Crisis Raises Fears About Depressed Oil Prices. The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Mufson, 6.76M) notes that oil prices closed at \$38.24 a barrel on Monday – “a precipitous fall from \$95.39 a barrel just a year ago” – as the prospect of China’s economic slowdown further batters oil prices that “were already being driven down by Saudi Arabia’s relentlessly high production, new Iraqi output and stubbornly prolific pumping by US independent producers.” Robert McNally, president of the Rapidan Group consulting firm and former member of the National Security Council, explained in an email that China’s “demand weakness” is a problem not because it adds to global oil supplies, but because it fails “to soak up an inundation of oversupply.”

In a 1,450-word article, the [New York Times](#) (8/25, Krauss, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that China’s economic problems have “raised fears” that the price of oil could remain in its current depressed state “far longer than even the most pessimistic projections, and do even deeper damage to oil exporters,” which are estimated to have lost \$1 trillion in oil sales over the last year because of the price decline, according to former OPEC Secretary General René G. Ortiz. Daniel Yergin, author of two “seminal books on the history of the oil industry,” said that many oil producers underestimated how dependent they were on Chinese economic growth. He calls the current situation “an oil shock.” While oil exporters are hurt most, the price drop “may signal a new period of global economic fragility that could hurt all countries.” The Times adds that the “global glut is likely to worsen if the nuclear deal with Iran is approved.”

More Commentary. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that even before the drop in commodity and stock markets, “the world economy was weak,” but “recent data from China, Europe, Japan and other countries suggest that growth is slowing more sharply than many analysts had anticipated.” That “puts the burden on policy makers in these countries to come up with more credible ways to bolster their economies.” Domestically, the Times says that the situation calls on the Fed to think hard before raising rates. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (8/25, 5.23M) downplays the importance of the sell-off, arguing that it is a normal correction. However, it also warns that any budget brinksmanship could make the situation far more

serious.

Financial forecaster and publisher Gerald Celente, in an opposing op-ed for [USA Today](#) (8/25, 5.23M), sees the situation as far more serious. He says that “conventional wizards now advise to take a deep breath, it’s merely a correction and there are buying opportunities. We disagree.” In “this environment of currency devaluations, failing economies and a series of other trend lines leading to increased global conflict and social unrest, we forecast gold will be highly valued as a safe haven commodity.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) focuses on China’s capital outflows as a symptom of the country’s broader economic problems. Overall, the Journal says that the world is now learning that China’s economy is significantly more vulnerable than it has previously appeared.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“Heroes Thwart A Train Attack, Yet Europe Remains Vulnerable.”* A [New York Times](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial notes a “deep sense of vulnerability” in Europe, where the “vast rail system is particularly open to terrorist attacks.” The Times urges additional security measures, but notes that they “may never be enough, given the sheer number of militant suspects on the Continent as well as a wide field of potential targets embracing not only the railways but any number of public spaces.”

“China, Japan And Europe Are Flashing Economic Warning Signs.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that even before the drop in commodity and stock markets, “the world economy was weak,” but “recent data from China, Europe, Japan and other countries suggest that growth is slowing more sharply than many analysts had anticipated.” That “puts the burden on policy makers in these countries to come up with more credible ways to bolster their economies.” Domestically, the Times says that the situation calls on the Fed to think hard before raising rates.

“Abortion And Down Syndrome.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says a bill in the Ohio state legislature that would criminalize abortions based on a fetal diagnosis of Down syndrome “stands a disturbingly good chance of approval this fall by the state’s Republican-controlled legislature, which has been passing abortion restrictions as quickly as it can write them.” The Times says the measure is “part of a larger national effort to undermine reproductive rights and, eventually, to overturn Roe v. Wade in full — a prospect that once seemed unimaginable. But under a Supreme Court that has grown increasingly receptive to such boundary-pushing legislation, the future looks a lot like America before 1973.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“Global Economy Woes.”* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) says that US needs to drive stronger world economic growth. The President and the GOP Congress “need to take the news from markets seriously, as a reminder of how fragile the global recovery remains, and how vulnerable it is to any new shocks.” As a result, it is “now doubly important that they avoid market-churning drama over the federal debt ceiling and other budgetary deadlines looming this fall.”

“Off-Target On Student Debt.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) editorializes that as the Democratic presidential candidates “look for crowd-pleasing solutions to the college debt ‘crisis,’” they “aren’t making the right distinctions.” Sen. Bernie Sanders “would make public higher education free, an expensive proposition that would subsidize a lot of rich people.” Hillary Clinton wants to “pour money into public colleges on the condition that they ask no student or family to make any more than an ‘affordable and realistic family contribution’ toward tuition.” But “more-targeted policies could channel aid to needy student debtors and fight cost inflation.”

“A 911 Crisis Averted.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) editorializes about an incident early Sunday morning in a Virginia suburb after a 911 call came in from a woman whose daughter’s boyfriend was threatening to kill himself, perhaps by “committing ‘suicide by cop.’” Police went to the man’s parent’s home, where he was “in the garage holding a handgun to his own head.” Carrie Weiland, a Fairfax 911 call center employee, “reached the man in the garage on his cellphone” and “spoke to the man sympathetically,” assuring him “the police were there to help” and coaching him “on how to surrender” so that “no one would be hurt.” The man peacefully surrendered to police shortly thereafter, the Post notes, adding that Fairfax police and 911 “handle several thousand calls each year involving threatened suicide,” and while “a few of those calls end badly; most are defused,” often “thanks to the unrecognized efforts of professionals such as Ms. Weiland, whose composure helped save the day.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“China’s Economic Stress Test.”* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25,

Subscription Publication, 5.95M) focuses on China's capital outflows as a symptom of the country's broader economic problems. Overall, the Journal says that the world is now learning that China's economy is significantly more vulnerable than it has previously appeared.

"The 'Death To England' Embassy." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) cites the reopening of Britain's embassy in Tehran and the growing number off businesses interested in operating in Iran as evidence that Iran, Europe, and the President are trying to present the nuclear agreement to Congress as a done deal before they have a chance to vote on it next month.

"The Biden Plot Thickens." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorial says White House press secretary Josh Earnest would not have commented that the President thinks his decision to choose Biden as a running mate was "the smartest decision he's ever made in politics" without the President's approval, which raises questions about the White House's feelings about Clinton's candidacy and what the President and Biden know about the controversy surrounding her private email server.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Bush's Costly Biotech Bet Has Yet To Pay Off](#)
[Stock Rout Tests US Economy's Resiliency](#)
[Losses Don't Alarm State](#)
[War Victims With A Price](#)
[Going Beyond 911: Paramedics As Health Coaches](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Risks Grow For Health Of US Expansion](#)
[Investors Grasp For Answers Amid Wild Stock Rout](#)
[Emerging Markets Hit Hard In Global Rout](#)
[For All Its Heft, China's Economy Is A Black Box](#)
[Forget The Ferrari; Polish Up The Pinto](#)

New York Times:

[A Plunge In China Rattles Markets Across The Globe](#)
[Advisers Work To Calm Fearful Investors](#)
[From Venezuela To Iraq To Russia, Oil Price Drops Raise Fears Of Unrest](#)
[Migrants Race North As Hungary Builds A Border Fence](#)
[John Kasich Balances His Blue-Collar Roots And Ties To Wall Street](#)
[Puerto Ricans Seeking New Lives Put Stamp On Central Florida](#)

Washington Post:

[In China, A Ghost Town Points To Shifting Economic Fortunes](#)
[For Souvenir Sellers, Papal Visit Is A Very Big Blessing](#)
["Black Monday" Triggers Stock Sell-Off](#)
[The Last Time I Saw My Mother](#)
[Family Is A Concern As Biden Eyes 2016](#)

Financial Times:

[A Fresh Deflation Scare Faces The Fed](#)
[Black Monday Highlights Beijing's Hard Choices](#)

Washington Times:

[IRS Finds Another Lemer Email Alias](#)
[All Eyes Are On China As Shock Waves Hit Global Stock Markets](#)
[Age Figures In Trump, Bush Appeal](#)
[Obama Says Kochs Are Holding Up Green Energy](#)
[Thais Urged To Wear A Smile In Face Of Terrorism, Uncertainty](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Wall Street Dive; France Terror Attack Foiled-Americans Honored; Joe Biden-Campaign Speculation; West Coast Wildfires; New York-Casino Bus Accident; Air Show Accident; ISIL-Syrian Temple Destruction; Louisiana Police Officer Shot; New Hampshire High School-Sex Scandal; New York Prison Break-Prisoner Trial; Ashley Madison Hack; Panda Cub Pictures.

CBS: Wall Street Dive; Wall Street Analysis; Gas Prices; France Terror Attack Foiled-Americans Honored; Political Candidates-Immigration Comments; Joe Biden-Campaign Speculation; Missouri Judicial System Overhaul; Hurricane Katrina-Accounts; US Train Security; Ashley Madison Hack; Panda Cub Pictures.

NBC: Wall Street Dive; Wall Street Analysis; France Terror Attack Foiled-Americans Honored; Louisiana Police Officer Shot; Air Show Accident; Joe Biden-Campaign Speculation; North Korea-South Korea Agreement; West Coast Wildfires; Colorado Theater Shooting-Sentencing; Panda Cub Pictures.

Network TV At A Glance:

Wall Street Dive— 10 minutes, 00 seconds
 France Terror Attack Foiled-Americans Honored – 7 minutes, 20 seconds
 Joe Biden Campaign Speculation –6 minutes, 05 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Wall Street Dive-International Markets; Tropical Storm Danny; Joe Biden Campaign Speculation; President Obama-Clean Energy Summit.

CBS: Wall Street Dive-International Markets; Indy Car Driver-Death; Colorado Theater Shooting-Sentencing; President Obama-Iran Nuclear Deal Support; West Coast Wildfires; ISS-Cargo Shipment Arrival.

NPR: Wall Street Dive-International Markets; South Korea North Korea Agreement-State Department Response; Missouri Judicial Court System-Overhaul; West Coast Wildfires; Veterans Affairs-Veteran Health.

FOX: Wall Street Dive-International Markets; President Obama-Clean Energy Summit; South Korea-North Korea Agreement; Tropical Storm Danny.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Returns to Washington, DC from Las Vegas, NV.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: Aug. 10 – Sept. 8. — Congress on break.

US House: Aug. 10 – Sept. 8. — Congress on break.

Other: Aug. 24 – 25. 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUMMIT** — VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald will lead a Traumatic Brain Injury Summit on Monday and Tuesday, August 24-25. This veteran-centric summit will bring together leading researchers in TBI from VA, DoD, and leading university researchers to assess past research efforts, our current understanding of TBI today, and potential future research directions. NOTE: This event is for invited attendees who are primarily TBI and PTSD researchers, experts from VA and DoD and special invited guests. Media are welcome to attend sessions from 8:15 am – 12:30 pm; 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. Ms. Pam Payeur of Wounded Heroes of Maine (Media should arrive at 8:00 a.m. for pre-set). 3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Various VA researchers will be available for interviews. 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Retired General Peter Chiarelli of One Mind and VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald (Media should arrive at 4:30 pm for pre-set) Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill Hotel, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

ALBERTA CLIPPER PROTEST – SEC. KERRY'S HOUSE — 10 a.m. "Over 100 young people and allies" from across the Midwest will come together in Washington, DC to "take action" outside of Secretary John Kerry's home "risking arrest" to urge him to stop the "illegal" Alberta Clipper expansion. The group argues that "through a backroom deal" with the State Department, the Canadian oil company Enbridge is proceeding with a "massive expansion of its Alberta Clipper tar sands pipeline without going through the legally required environmental review process". Rally starts at 10am – Volta Park, 1555 34th St NW. Then, Demonstration outside of Secretary Kemys DC home at 10:30am – 3320 O Street NW. Contacts: Contact: Kendall Mackey, kendall@energyactioncoalition.org, 913-908-6072; Gabby Brown, gabby@newpartners.com, 914-261-4626.

NTSB – BACK TO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY — 10 a.m. The National Transportation Safety Board in coordination with Loudoun County Public Schools, Safe Kids Fairfax County, Youth of Virginia Speak Out, Virginia Safe Routes to School, and Loudoun County Sheriffs Office hold event on transportation safety for school-age children. Demonstrations on school bus safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and child safety seats

to help families prepare for the new school year. Location: Trailside Middle School, 20325 Claiborne Parkway, Ashburn, VA 20147.

EAST-WEST CENTER – NORTHEAST ASIA – NUCLEAR SAFETY — 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. The East-West Center in Washington hosts an Asia Pacific Security Seminar: Promoting Nuclear Safety Cooperation in Northeast Asia with Dr. James E. Platte, Non-Resident Sasakawa Peace Foundation Fellow, Pacific Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ouo8FAEfmzDv8seN0SFKcYWfGHsmkfolHoc518Tc1nQ/viewform> Location: East-West Center in Washington, 1819 L Street NW, Sixth Floor Conference Room.

WILSON CENTER – CLIMATE RISK – WEB EVENT — 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Peace, Conflict, and the Scale of the Climate Risk Landscape (WEBINAR). Speakers: Joshua Busby, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin; Marc Levy, Deputy Director, Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Earth Institute, Columbia University; Mathew J. Burrows, Director, Strategic Foresight Initiative, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council; Nadya T. Bliss, Director, Global Security Initiative, Arizona State University. <https://wilsoncenter.org/event/peace-conflict-and-the-scale-the-climate-risk-landscape-webinar> Location: Woodrow Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Conan O'Brien: "In some states, the joke presidential candidate 'Deez Nuts' is polling at nine percent. Meanwhile, the joke presidential candidate Donald Trump is polling at 25 percent."

Conan O'Brien: "Jeb Bush supporters accidentally sent out a flyer where it looks like Jeb's head is photoshopped onto a black man's body. After hearing about it, Jeb's wife said, 'If only.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "Feels good to have 200 people clapping. Then I turn on the news – I see 30,000 people in Alabama going nuts for Donald Trump – I have to admit I don't feel quite as good anymore."

Seth Meyers: "Well, [Donald] Trump's children released a statement this week calling their father 'a true visionary and a great mentor.' And Trump released a statement calling his kids 'suck-ups and not the best.'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, July 21, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Jul 21, 2015 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Discusses White House Tribal Youth Gathering.](#)
- + [Interior Solicitor Tompkins Asserts Department's Authority Is Backed By Law.](#)
- + [Las Vegas Chosen For Youth Outdoors Initiative.](#)
- + [Plame Says OPM Breach "Catastrophic" For US Security.](#)
- + [Professor Discusses New Approach To Fighting Wildfires.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Browns Canyon National Monument Dedication.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Newest National Monuments.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Secretary's Jewell Meeting On Colowyo Mine.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Interior Approves Expansion Of Four Corners Power Plant.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Interior Shares Video Of Bear Fight.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [BIA Must Pay Tribe Contract Costs For Not Explaining Refusal.](#)
- + [Southern Cherokee Indian Tribe Seeks Federal Recognition.](#)
- + [San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Discusses Battle To Save Oak Flat.](#)
- + [Lawsuit Filed Over Access To San Ildefonso Road.](#)
- + [Pojoaque Suit Claims Interference.](#)
- + [Chukchansi Casino Could Reopen By End Of Year.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of White House Tribal Youth Gathering.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Rep. Davis Announces \\$5.2 Million For Sweetwater Authority To Expand Desalination Facility.](#)
- + [California Drought Regulators Propose Fine Against Farmers.](#)
- + [Delta Tunnel Plan Criticized.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Deepwater Wind Plans To Have "Steel In The Water" At Block Island This Week.](#)
- + [Opinion: States And Tribes Lose In Hydropower Rules.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Rep. Bishop Calls Lack Of Energy Production On Federal Lands A "Failure" For Obama Administration.](#)
- + [New Mexico Democrats Ask Administration For Tougher Methane Rules.](#)
- + [BLM Fracking Rule Delayed Additional Month.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of New Stream Protection Rule.](#)
- + [Interior Urged To Overhaul Coal Program.](#)
- + [Opinion: Pipeline Regulation Should Be Done By Interior Department, Not Congress.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [New Drilling Shifts From Offshore To Shale.](#)
- + [Damaged Shell Icebreaker Fennica Leaves Alaska For Repairs In Portland.](#)
- + [Survey: BP Oil Spill Still A Major Issue For Gulf Coast Residents.](#)
- + [Seismic Testing Criticized.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Grand Staircase Monument Yields Trove Of Fossils.](#)
- + [BLM Investigating Death Of Wild Horse On Swasey Herd Management Area.](#)
- + [Loophole Would Allow Utah Officials To Help Lyman Legal Defense.](#)
- + [Bonneville Salt Flats Speed Week Called Off.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Sign Historic Agreement.](#)
- + [Montana Gov. Bullock, USDA Sign Sage Grouse Deal.](#)
- + [Rare Manatee Twins Born In Homosassa Springs.](#)
- + [Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge Bringing Natural Plans, Wildlife Back Into Area.](#)
- + [Amendments To NDAA Criticized.](#)
- + [Support Urged In Fight Against International Wildlife Crime.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Marion Added To Selma To Montgomery Historic Trail.](#)
- + [Three Southern Courthouses Designated National Historic Landmarks.](#)
- + [House Hearings To Consider NPS Funding Opportunities.](#)
- + [NPS To Care For Two Historic Sites In Alaska.](#)
- + [Saguaro National Park Plans Spraying To Kill Buffelgrass.](#)
- + [Two Interns At Lewis And Clark National Historical Park Spearheading Educational, Cultural Programs.](#)
- + [Retired NPS Ranger Researches Story Of Boy Buried Inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Ban On Sales Of Bottled Water At National Parks.](#)
- + [Creation Of L.G.B.T. National Park at Christopher Park Urged.](#)
- + [National Park System Lauded For Preserving History.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [Eye Of The Sahara To Offer Sneak Peak Of "Earth As Art".](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama Hails UN Vote Endorsing Iran Nuclear Deal.](#)
- + [Chattanooga Gunman Has Not Yet Been Linked To Jihadist Groups.](#)
- + [Trump's Remarks On McCain's Vietnam War Service Continue To Roil GOP Race.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL YOUTH GATHERING. In an interview with the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (7/20, 28K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked about "her impression" of the White House Tribal Youth Gathering, and "how the U.S. Government was working to improve

Indian country for Native youth.”

INTERIOR SOLICITOR TOMPKINS ASSERTS DEPARTMENT’S AUTHORITY IS BACKED BY LAW. The [EnergyWire](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Obama administration’s top lawyer for natural resources last week defended the authority of the Department of the Interior to draft new regulations for public lands.” Speaking at the annual gathering of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute, Interior Solicitor Hilary Tompkins “emphasized her position that the department and its Bureau of Land Management are fully authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and other long-standing laws to ensure responsible development of public lands.” She said, “I know some of you are challenging these issues in court right now, but I believe legally, under FLPMA, under Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield, under the [Mineral Leasing Act], that BLM and other parts of the department have the authority to care for the public lands in a way that is sustainable, that thinks about the long-term game, that looks at things on a landscape level, not just project by project.”

LAS VEGAS CHOSEN FOR YOUTH OUTDOORS INITIATIVE. [YouTube](#) (7/20) has a video of a report on the YMCA Summer Camp Program. Las Vegas was one of 50 cities selected for the youth outdoors initiative.

PLAME SAYS OPM BREACH “CATASTROPHIC” FOR US SECURITY. [USA Today](#) (7/21, Kelly, 5.01M) reports that former CIA agent Valerie Plame told the paper on Monday that if the Chinese are “behind the massive hacks against the federal Office of Personnel Management, they have a wealth of information to use in counterintelligence efforts against” the US. She said, “When you have access to information about the friends, family members and health issues of someone who works for the US government, you can use that to try to get close to that person and gather intelligence. To my mind, the OPM breach is absolutely catastrophic for our national security.”

PROFESSOR DISCUSSES NEW APPROACH TO FIGHTING WILDFIRES. In a piece for [Slate](#) (7/20, 1.31M), Stephen J. Pyne, a professor in the School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, writes about three new strategies in fighting wildfires: resistance, restoration, and resilience. According to Pyne, “no one method is necessarily or always superior to the others. ... We need all three.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony for Browns Canyon National Monument was provided by the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (7/21, 87K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/19, 28K), and the [Colorado Statesman](#) (7/21, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEWEST NATIONAL MONUMENTS. Additional coverage of the nation’s newest national monuments was provided by the [Examiner](#) (7/21, 1.19M) and [Architectural Digest](#) (7/21, 4.56M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY’S JEWELL MEETING ON COLOWYO MINE. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s meeting on the Colowyo coal mine last week was provided by the [Colorado Statesman](#) (7/21, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR APPROVES EXPANSION OF FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT. Additional coverage of the extension of the Four Corners Power Plant’s lease was provided by [Inside Tucson Business \(AZ\)](#) (7/21, 12K), [Tucson \(AZ\) Local Media](#) (7/21), and [Law 360](#) (7/21, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR SHARES VIDEO OF BEAR FIGHT. Additional coverage of the video shared by the Interior Department of bears fighting for fish at Katmai National Park was provided by [DailyMotion](#) (7/21) and [KRON-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (7/20, 74K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA MUST PAY TRIBE CONTRACT COSTS FOR NOT EXPLAINING REFUSAL. [Law 360](#) (7/21, 15K) reports that the BIA “must pay an Idaho tribe the full startup costs for a road maintenance contract after failing to explain why the agency had chosen not to do so, according to a recent U.S. Department of the Interior board ruling.” The Interior Board of Indian Appeals “determined July 15 that the BIA was required to pay the post-award costs proposed by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation for an expanded Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contract to perform road maintenance.”

SOUTHERN CHEROKEE INDIAN TRIBE SEEKS FEDERAL RECOGNITION. [Al Jazeera America](#) (7/21, 133K) reports that “fifteen years ago, members of the Southern Cherokee Indian Tribe...began researching their ancestry and heritage.” Finally, “after years of compiling materials, in early May of this year, the group’s 484

members reached the end of the first step of the tribal recognition process.”

SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE CHAIRMAN DISCUSSES BATTLE TO SAVE OAK FLAT. In an interview with the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (7/20, 28K), San Carlos Apache Tribe Chairman Terry Rambler talked “about the tribe’s epic battle to save Oak Flat, its most revered sacred site.” Rambler also responded “to comments made by an executive of Resolution Copper, the company with a controversial copper mining plan that would destroy Oak Flat and contaminate the aquifers that supply the area with water.”

LAWSUIT FILED OVER ACCESS TO SAN ILDEFONSO ROAD. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/21, 260K) reports that “hundreds of property owners are suing the federal government in an attempt to clear up who owns the roads through San Ildefonso Pueblo that give them access to their property.” According to the article, “the pueblo has stirred up non-Indian residents of northern Santa Fe County by seeking payments for rights of way, including for longtime county roads across land that San Ildefonso maintains it owns.” The lawsuit claims that, “because of the pueblo’s claim on the roads, property values have diminished, title companies are refusing to provide title insurance, and property owners are having trouble securing financing to purchase, sell or refinance their property.”

POJOAQUE SUIT CLAIMS INTERFERENCE. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/21, 260K) reports that “Pojoaque Pueblo has sued the state, Gov. Susana Martinez and members of the Gaming Control Board in federal court, claiming the officials are illegally interfering with its casinos’ business operations now that a state-tribal gambling agreement has expired.” According to the article, “the lawsuit, filed Saturday in U.S. District Court, asks the court to block New Mexico from taking action against vendors that do business with Pojoaque and to award hundreds of millions of dollars in damages to the pueblo.”

CHUKCHANSI CASINO COULD REOPEN BY END OF YEAR. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/21, 272K) reports that “a \$35 million deal with creditors is close to being reached to reopen the Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino by the end of the year, perhaps as early as Labor Day, but the tribe is still awaiting state and federal approval to open.” According to the article, an agreement is expected to be finalized “in a few weeks with the National Indian Gaming Commission and state Attorney General’s Office.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL YOUTH GATHERING. Additional coverage of the White House Tribal Youth Gathering was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (7/16, 28K).

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

REP. DAVIS ANNOUNCES \$5.2 MILLION FOR SWEETWATER AUTHORITY TO EXPAND DESALINATION FACILITY. [KUSI-TV San Diego](#) (7/21, 4K) reports that Rep. Susan Davis “announced a \$5.2 million federal grant Monday for the Sweetwater Authority to expand a desalination facility.” The grant from the Interior Department will “go toward increasing the desalination capabilities of the Richard A. Reynolds Desalination Facility from 3,600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water to 8,000 AFY.” Davis said, “Increasing sources of reliable drinking water and our region’s water independence must be a priority. California is in the grips of a historic drought and improving our water infrastructure will be key to surviving this drought and any future water shortages.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Times of San Diego \(CA\)](#) (7/20).

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT REGULATORS PROPOSE FINE AGAINST FARMERS. The [AP](#) (7/21, 2.22M) reports that “California drought regulators sent the strongest signal yet that they’re serious about cracking down on water waste by proposing a first-of-its kind, \$1.5 million fine against a group of farmers they say illegally took water.” The article notes that “the fine announced Monday by the State Water Resources Control Board is the first ever levied against an individual or district with senior rights that are more than a century old and have long provided immunity from mandatory conservation.” It “follows months of unprecedented cutback orders to communities, businesses and the powerful agriculture industry during the fourth year of the devastating dry spell in California.”

DELTA TUNNEL PLAN CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (7/20, 47K) criticizes Gov. Jerry Brown’s revised Delta twin-tunnel plan. The paper argues that “the project was ill-conceived from the outset, and Brown needs to own up.” It says that “if he wants a legacy of providing for California’s future water needs, he should focus on restoring the Delta levees, giving farmers incentives to install drip irrigation, encouraging more recycling and — if he cares about improving the Delta’s health as an ecosystem, which

appears more doubtful with each plan revision — he should send more, not less, water through the estuary.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DEEPWATER WIND PLANS TO HAVE “STEEL IN THE WATER” AT BLOCK ISLAND THIS WEEK.

[Fierce Energy](#) (7/21, Brandt) reports that “this week, Deepwater Wind plans to have ‘steel in the water’ at their Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Rhode Island.” The article notes that “the wind farm will become the United States’ first offshore wind project, and will provide energy to the region through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with National Grid.” National Grid CEO Jeff Grybowski said, “We are on the cusp of bringing offshore wind from theory to reality in the U.S. We’re incredibly proud of our position at the forefront of the American offshore wind industry – and it all starts here with our work on the Block Island Wind Farm. This is just the start of something very big.”

OPINION: STATES AND TRIBES LOSE IN HYDROPOWER RULES. Writing in [The Hill](#) (7/21, Seebach, 533K), Hydropower Reform Coalition chairman John Seebach argues that legislation being considered by both the Senate and House energy committees “would give tremendous new powers to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission” and give dam operators more power over waterways than the communities through which they flow. He asserts that the measures create “loopholes that allow hydropower dam operators to avoid having to comply with the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.” Calling the legislation “reckless,” Seebach calls on Congress to oppose it.

Onshore Energy Development:

REP. BISHOP CALLS LACK OF ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS A “FAILURE” FOR OBAMA ADMINISTRATION. [The Hill](#) (7/21, Henry, 533K) reports that the top Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Rob Bishop, said that “dismal” energy production on federal land will be “a pillar in President Obama’s energy legacy of failure.” Bishop criticized “the Obama administration over a Friday report from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) that shows energy production on federal and Indian lands increasing just 0.2 percent in 2014.” The Utah Republican “said the government should encourage more energy production on those lands, especially given the prospect of Iranian oil entering the market after sanctions on the country are lifted.”

NEW MEXICO DEMOCRATS ASK ADMINISTRATION FOR TOUGHER METHANE RULES. [The Hill](#) (7/21, Henry, 533K) reports that four New Mexico Democrats, including both of the state’s senators, have written a letter to the Office of Management and Budget urging strong rules against methane emissions at oil and gas drilling sites. “We recognize that oil and gas producers have an economic incentive to minimize methane losses and the industry is improving its practices. However, federal action is necessary to ensure that steps to limit methane releases are applied consistently across the industry,” the letter reads. The EPA announced in January that it would seek to regulate the gas.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/21, 2.22M), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/20, 28K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/21, 440K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/21, 260K).

BLM FRACKING RULE DELAYED ADDITIONAL MONTH. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/21, 99K) reports that the fate of BLM’s “fracking rule will not be decided for at least another month.” A federal judge magistrate recently granted the BLM’s “request for an additional month to compile its official account of how the regulation was drafted.” The article notes that “the account had been due by July 22 under the stay issued by U.S. District Court Judge Scott W. Skavdahl in June.” The BLM “now has until Aug. 28 to submit the record.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW STREAM PROTECTION RULE. Additional coverage of the new Stream Protection Rule announced last week was provided by the [Courthouse News](#) (7/20, 7K), the [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (7/21, 42K), [World Coal](#) (7/21), and [Value Walk](#) (7/21, 21K).

INTERIOR URGED TO OVERHAUL COAL PROGRAM. In an op-ed for the [Burlington \(CO\) Record](#) (7/21), Jim Baca, who was director of the BLM from 1993 to 1994, writes that “our nation’s federal coal program needs a major overhaul.” Baca says that “our federal coal program is based on a system where carbon emissions are completely ignored,” and “the effect is that taxpayers subsidize the extraction of coal, allowing industry to pay

rock bottom prices while we shoulder the climate costs." Baca argues that "selling more coal before we've had a chance to reform how the federal coal program accounts for climate impacts is not only contrary to the public interest, it's also a costly recipe for disaster."

OPINION: PIPELINE REGULATION SHOULD BE DONE BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, NOT CONGRESS. Writing in [The Hill](#) (7/21, 533K), Interstate Natural Gas Association of America CEO Don Santa argues that the regulation and permitting of natural gas pipelines should be handled by the Interior Department instead of Congress. The current system requires Congress to authorize the department on an ad hoc basis to negotiate right-of-way issues, which Santa says slows the process. He advocates for the passage of either H.R. 2295 in the House, S. 411, or S. 1196 to achieve that goal.

Offshore Energy Development:

NEW DRILLING SHIFTS FROM OFFSHORE TO SHALE. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/21, Carroll, 3.81M) reports that new drilling projects are shifting from shallow offshore wells to shale projects. The number of permits to drill in less than 500 feet of seawater dropped 74 percent during the first half of 2015 as compared to a year earlier, according to data from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. "A lot of the players operating on the continental shelf are financially distressed or significantly cutting back on capital spending," said J.B. Lowe, an analyst at Cowen and Company. Deepwater drilling in the Gulf, however, has continued "apace with 2014."

DAMAGED SHELL ICEBREAKER FENNICA LEAVES ALASKA FOR REPAIRS IN PORTLAND. On its website, [KUCB-FM Unalaska, AK](#) (7/20) reports that Shell's "damaged icebreaker," the Fennica, left Alaska's Dutch Harbor on Sunday, bound for Portland, Oregon's Vigor shipyard to repair a "three-foot gash" in its hull. The Fennica had reported colliding with something on July 3 as it headed out of Dutch Harbor "for Shell's Arctic Ocean drilling site." Shell spokeswoman Megan Baldino didn't speculate on how long the repairs would take, but "said Vigor has the time and space" to complete the job.

SURVEY: BP OIL SPILL STILL A MAJOR ISSUE FOR GULF COAST RESIDENTS. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (7/21, Schleifstein, 729K) reports on the results of a poll querying Gulf Coast residents about the after-effects of the BP oil spill. An "overwhelming majority" of the voters in those states continue to view the spill "as a major problem and want oil spill fine money spent on restoration of natural resources," the poll indicates. The impact of the spill "on natural areas and wildlife" in the region came in fourth among survey respondents questioned on what constitutes "extremely and very serious problems cited by voters," behind only "the economy and unemployment, quality of public education, and crime."

SEISMIC TESTING CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for [Southern Maryland Online](#) (7/21, 6K), Liza Field, a teacher and conservationist, criticizes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. According to Field, "seismic blasting traumatizes myriad marine species," and "it alarms fish away from their usual habitats, besides damaging the hearing of whales, dolphins and endangered sea turtles."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

GRAND STAIRCASE MONUMENT YIELDS TROVE OF FOSSILS. The [New York Times](#) (7/21, Pinkowski, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that in the past 15 years, paleontologist Alan Titus and his BLM colleagues, have "excavated tens of thousands of fossils from an extraordinary part of the Grand Staircase monument called the Kaiparowits Plateau, a 50-mile-long, high-elevation ridge." According to the article, "one of the richest troves of fossils from the Late Cretaceous Period, the Kaiparowits is providing a window into the hothouse world that was home to the dinosaurs in their twilight, about 10 million years before their sudden extinction." The article notes that "the Kaiparowits stands out for the sheer number of well-preserved, unique fossils. Finds from this ancient ecosystem are challenging long-held assumptions about dinosaur physiology, evolution and environment."

BLM INVESTIGATING DEATH OF WILD HORSE ON SWASEY HERD MANAGEMENT AREA. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/21, 549K) reports that investigators from the BLM are "looking for clues in the death of a wild horse on the Swasey Herd Management Area west of Delta." According to the BLM, "the 14-year-old palomino stud was shot and killed with a small caliber gun." The BLM and National Mustang Association, "a wild horse advocacy group, are offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the identification and conviction of

the person or people involved.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/20, 233K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/21, 1.07M).

LOOPHOLE WOULD ALLOW UTAH OFFICIALS TO HELP LYMAN LEGAL DEFENSE. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/21, 440K) reports that “a gaping loophole in state election law could enable Gov. Gary Herbert to make good on a pledge to give San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman \$10,000 toward his legal defense involving his conviction on trespassing on a scenic southern Utah road.” Herbert “offered to put \$10,000 toward Lyman’s defense after the state’s Constitutional Defense Council declined to put up \$100,000 in taxpayer money for the cause.” According to the article, “questions were raised about the legality of using money from a campaign account or political-action committee for such a purpose, but the lieutenant governor’s office, consulting with the attorney general’s office, said the donations would likely be legal — technically.”

BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS SPEED WEEK CALLED OFF. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/21, 440K) reports that “for the second year in a row, organizers of the time trials on the Bonneville Salt Flats have canceled Speed Week.” The article notes that “some racers believe the mineral extraction industry — and the federal Bureau of Land Management engineers who sign off on their permits — are responsible for depleting salt concentrations over the course of several decades.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS, ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC. SIGN HISTORIC AGREEMENT. The [AmmoLand](#) (7/21, 5K) reports that the FWS and “leading African American sorority Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.” have “signed a historic memorandum of understanding in Washington, D.C., to work cooperatively to engage urban youth in outdoor recreation, biological sciences and healthful activity in nature.” The article notes that “the five-year agreement follows last year’s signing of a similar MOU between the Service and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., the brother organization of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.” Steve Guertin, deputy director of the FWS, said, “Our country’s future depends on the knowledge and well-being of youth in our nation’s cities. We are thrilled to join with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority to boost opportunities for young people to explore the natural world, learn about science and science careers, and reap the benefits of outdoor recreation. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, with its long commitment to health and community well-being, is a wonderful partner, and we look forward to forging many new connections.”

MONTANA GOV. BULLOCK, USDA SIGN SAGE GROUSE DEAL. The [AP](#) (7/21, 2.22M) reports that Montana Gov. Steve Bullock “signed an agreement Monday with the U.S. Department of Agriculture pledging cooperation on efforts to protect declining populations of greater sage grouse.” The agreement “calls for state, federal and local officials to meet annually to discuss sage grouse conservation.” The article notes that “it includes no new spending or regulations.”

RARE MANATEE TWINS BORN IN HOMOSASSA SPRINGS. [WFTV-TV](#) Orlando, FL (7/21, 176K) reports that FWS and Citrus County Visitors and Convention Bureau announced “rare manatee twins were spotted in Homosassa Springs.” Officials said that “Florida manatees are listed as endangered, and only 2 percent of all manatee births result in twins.” Ivan Vicente, Visitor Services Specialist, FWS, said, “In the past 10 years, maybe I’ve spotted a dozen set of twins, but never once have I seen them in the springs nor have I seen a mother and her calves quite so visible in Homosassa waters. That’s because nursing mothers usually isolate themselves in low trafficked areas to keep the calves protected from mainly people, only this time they aren’t as isolated.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (7/20, 5.01M) and the [Huffington Post](#) (7/21, 194K).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BRINGING NATURAL PLANS, WILDLIFE BACK INTO AREA. The [Public Radio International](#) (7/20, 6K) reports on the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge, which is “bringing the natural prairie plants and animals back to the area,” and “reintroducing bison.”

AMENDMENTS TO NDAA CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (7/21, Reppenhagen, 533K), Garrett Reppenhagen, a U.S Army veteran, criticizes “attachments to the NDAA that would threaten the parks and public lands that I visit and enjoy with my family.” According to Reppenhagen, “a group of members of Congress led by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) are putting oil and gas interests ahead of our nation’s military men and women by attempting to fill the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) bill with amendments that would derail westerners’ years-long efforts to protect the greater sage-grouse—along with 350 other western

species that depend on the same sage brush landscape." Reppenhagen says that "it is critical they understand that a lot of hard work by professionals in the scientific community, state and local officials, landowners, ranchers, recreation and other groups, and our land management agencies have developed a series of science based plans to conserve our public lands and protect the greater sage-grouse."

SUPPORT URGED IN FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/21, Varekova Usn Rear Adm. Don Loren (ret.), 533K), Veronica Varekova, an international supermodel, and Don Loren, a retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, urges support for "the campaign to stop international wildlife crime." They say "President Obama and his administration also deserve strong praise for the leadership they have exhibited over the last few years through the creation of the White House task force and strategy to combat wildlife crime." The authors conclude that "wildlife crime is an atrocity that stands in stark contrast to our moral values, and it poses a significant security risk to the U.S. and our partners and allies."

National Park Service:

MARION ADDED TO SELMA TO MONTGOMERY HISTORIC TRAIL. The [Selma \(AL\) Times Journal](#) (7/20, 22K) reports that "since the creation of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in 1996, one of the most important parts of the voting rights marches has been missing – the beginning." The NPS "extended the trail Monday to include the city of Marion, which is where civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson was murdered days before the Bloody Sunday march that took place March 7, 1965." NPS Director Jon Jarvis said "the process of adding Marion to the trail started with the Perry County Commission and others." She said, "They all said the story was incomplete without Marion, and so we needed to add that piece."

THREE SOUTHERN COURTHOUSES DESIGNATED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (7/21, 729K) reports that "connections to key Civil Rights rulings earned three Southern courthouses – including the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals building in downtown New Orleans – designation as National Historic Landmarks, the National Park Service announced Monday." Along with the 5th Circuit Courthouse, the 11th Circuit Courthouse in Atlanta, and the Robert M. Johnson Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Montgomery, Ala., were designated.

Also reporting on the story are the [AP](#) (7/21, 2.22M) and the [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (7/20, 28K).

HOUSE HEARINGS TO CONSIDER NPS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES. The [E&E Daily](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "outside funding for the National Park Service will get a closer look this week at a pair of overlapping House hearings Thursday morning, neither of which are slated to include NPS officials." According to the article, "the first, a 9 a.m. hearing by the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior, will focus on the Park Service's relationship with its concessionaires." Three concession company executives who sit on the board of the National Park Hospitality Association, the industry's trade group, will "argue that keeping parks open later and placing fewer restrictions on the number of visitors and types of experiences they can have would generate more money for the Park Service and its concessionaires."

In a piece for the [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (7/21, 77K), Seabury Blair Jr. writes that Senate Bill 2873 was "sponsored by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) and proposed as a possible means of raising money for our cash-strapped National Park System." The measure would "do so by allowing private and commercial park donors to place signs recognizing their donations at certain locations within park boundaries." Blair concludes that "if it is carefully written and applied with some sensibility, we should consider the merits of Senate Bill 2873."

NPS TO CARE FOR TWO HISTORIC SITES IN ALASKA. [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (7/21) reports that "the federal government is stepping in to care for two of Alaska's most important historic sites, after the legislature cut funding to state parks in Sitka." The NPS "calls Castle Hill and Old Sitka 'cultural treasures,' and has agreed to take care of the parks at least through the fall."

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK PLANS SPRAYING TO KILL BUFFELGRASS. The [AP](#) (7/21, 2.22M) reports that Saguaro National Park "plans to resume herbicide spraying on parts of the park where invasive buffelgrass has become established." Park officials say "the increase in moisture provided by monsoon rains has created optimal conditions for ground crews to apply herbicide on buffelgrass in an effort to improve conditions for native plants."

TWO INTERNS AT LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK SPEARHEADING

EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL PROGRAMS. The [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (7/20, 23K) reports that “two interns at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park are spearheading various educational and cultural programs that have never been done before at the park.” Nancy Fernandez and Salvador Omelas, “both Hispanic and bilingual, have worked on several community outreach projects, including recruiting children of migrant workers to summer camps and leading bilingual kayak tours and hikes.”

RETIRED NPS RANGER RESEARCHES STORY OF BOY BURIED INSIDE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (7/21, 306K) reports on the story of a 12-year-old boy who ran away from home in 1915, and “froze to death” in the Smoky Mountains. Over the years, Arthur “Butch” McDade, a retired NPS ranger, has “conducted extensive research on the mystery of Edd McKinley.” He has also “led hikes along the Old Sugarlands Trail to the mountain cemetery — now inside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park — where the boy was buried.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAN ON SALES OF BOTTLED WATER AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the ban on sales of bottled water at national parks was provided by [Co. Exist](#) (7/21, 43K).

CREATION OF L.G.B.T. NATIONAL PARK AT CHRISTOPHER PARK URGED. In a letter to the [New York Times](#) (7/17, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), David Ehrich, the founder of [Savestonewall.org](#), supports “the creation of the first L.G.B.T. National Park at Christopher Park, across the street from the Stonewall Inn.” According to Ehrich, “a ‘Stonewall National Park,’ as a full unit of the National Park Service, would ensure two objectives: first, that the story of the Stonewall uprising is told and available to all Americans who visit this historic site; and second, that L.G.B.T. history is incorporated into the National Park Service’s narrative about the 20th-century struggle for civil rights in America.”

The [Joe. My. God.](#) (7/21, 6K) has a link to a petition calling for the creation of L.G.B.T. National Park at Christopher Park.

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LAUDED FOR PRESERVING HISTORY. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (7/21, Peterman, 194K), Audrey Peterman writes that “our protected lands are those perceived to be of the highest and best value based upon natural beauty, historical significance and cultural importance.” Peterman says that “as the natural sites stir our souls with their beauty and provide us with archaeological records dating back millions of years, the historic and cultural sites provide us with a similarly factual historic record of our efforts at nation building. Those records show the pivotal role that every race and ethnic group in America played in the founding, exploration, defense and building of our country.”

US Geological Survey:

EYE OF THE SAHARA TO OFFER SNEAK PEAK OF “EARTH AS ART”. The [Greenwire](#) (7/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Eye of the Sahara – a geologic feature in Mauritania on the western edge of the Africa desert – offers a sneak peak of the fourth installment of ‘Earth as Art,’ a world of images amassed by the federal Landsat program.” The article notes that “an interagency partnership led by NASA has been responsible for getting the series of satellites into space, while the U.S. Geological Survey operates and gathers data from them once they’re aloft.” The two “satellites now in operation – Landsat 7 and 8 – supply the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center with a wide array of information.”

Top National News:

OBAMA HAILS UN VOTE ENDORSING IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL. The UN Security Council’s unanimous endorsement Monday of the nuclear deal reached with Iran was hailed by President Obama, the [AP](#) (7/21) reports, as a sign “there is a broad consensus” that it is “the best way to ensure that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon.” Obama told reporters Monday after talks with the president of Nigeria that he’s hopeful Congress “will pay attention to that broad-based consensus.” [AFP](#) (7/21) quotes the President as saying, “There is broad international consensus around this issue. My working assumption is that Congress will pay attention to that broad basic consensus.”

While Monday’s vote is receiving extensive print and online coverage, none of the networks reported on it last night. The [AP](#) (7/21, Lederer) reports that in addition to endorsing the deal, the Council “also approved a provision that would automatically reinstate the harsh measures if Tehran reneges on its promises.” EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels “immediately followed suit, endorsing the agreement between Iran and six major powers and taking the first step to lift EU sanctions.” But while the President welcomed the vote, House

Speaker Boehner accused him of "ignoring the concerns of the American people" by allowing "such a consequential vote" to go ahead in the UN just 24 hours after submitting the agreement to Congress.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/21, Boyer, 621K) quotes Boehner as saying, "This is a bad start for a bad deal," while Sen. John Cornyn said Obama's decision to go to the UN before Congress "is an affront to the American people." House Minority Leader Pelosi, meanwhile, wrote to her Democratic colleagues on Monday, urging them to support the deal, which she called "a major accomplishment," [Reuters](#) (7/21, Zengerle) reports.

[Politico](#) (7/20, Everett, 1.1M) reports that a group of "influential Republicans and a handful of Democrats howled in protest" Monday over the UN vote, and [The Hill](#) (7/20, Hattem, 533K) said that while the White House hoped the vote would "build pressure on Congress to back the deal," the strategy "risked backfiring as some Democrats scolded the administration for the decision," and the Administration "was forced to play defense." Secretary of State Kerry insisted that "no ability of the Congress has been impinged on."

State Department spokesman John Kirby, appearing on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/20, 554K), said that "Secretary Kerry will be going up to Capitol Hill this week on a couple of different occasions, Wednesday and Thursday, to talk and to brief and to discuss [the deal] with concerned members of Congress," adding that Kerry "looks forward to that discussion because he believes this deal is the right deal." According to [Reuters](#) (7/21), Kerry, along with Energy Secretary Moniz and Treasury Secretary Lew, will hold two classified briefings on the deal on Wednesday for members of the House and Senate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Lauria, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) notes that the provisions in the UN resolution won't go into effect for 90 days, in order to give Congress time to conduct its own review, but the [New York Times](#) (7/21, Sengupta, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Monday's vote "potentially sets up an angry showdown in Congress," where lawmakers had "objected to the Council vote's taking place before Congress has had a chance to debate the accord."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorial says that regardless of Monday's Security Council vote, Congress still has the power to reject the deal. If the President vetoes such a measure, the Journal says, he will be sending a signal to Iran and the rest of the world that the American people do not support the deal. Walter Pincus writes in his [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) column that while critics "have complained about the administration allowing the United Nations to act before Congress does," lawmakers "still have plenty of time to go over the deal before any steps are taken."

Meanwhile, Iran's UN envoy, Gholamali Khoshroo, [AFP](#) (7/21, Matthew) reports, welcomed the vote and said Tehran was ready "to engage in good faith" with its neighbors. "This is the time to start working together against our most common and important challenges, which include above all violent extremism," he said.

But back in Tehran, [Reuters](#) (7/21, Sharafedin) reports, the hardline Revolutionary Guards denounced the resolution, saying it crossed "red lines" set by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. However, the [New York Times](#) (7/21, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that the objection by the Guard's commander, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, "was not expected to derail the nuclear agreement." It did, however, "open a new point of contention within Iran's political hierarchy," and marked "the most authoritative criticism from the leader of an influential faction in Iran" since the deal was announced.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (7/20, LaFranchi, 539K), meanwhile, examines the challenges Presidents Obama and Rouhani face as they lobby their publics in support of the deal. Both countries, for example, "find themselves entering heated electoral campaigns. And in both cases, opponents of the deal are attacking it with an eye to rallying political supporters, some regional analysts say."

Carter Tries To Assure Israel After Iran Deal. The [AP](#) (7/21, Burns) reports that during a visit to the Golan Heights on Monday, Defense Secretary Carter "offered personal assurances" that the US will help Israel counter Iranian support for Hezbollah, calling it just "one example of how the US can support the Jewish state in the aftermath of the Iran nuclear deal." Carter, the AP says, "hit the same theme later at a joint news conference in Tel Aviv with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon," using the event to "make a public show of unity at a low point in US-Israeli relations." The [Washington Post](#) (7/21, Ryan, 5.01M) reports the two officials "acknowledged differences about the deal but struck a more conciliatory note."

The [New York Times](#) (7/21, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) similarly says Carter's "excursion" to the Golan "was an exercise meant to soothe an angry friend," but "for all the efforts at soothing and the talk of strengthening security cooperation, one message remained clear at the end of Mr. Carter's first day in Israel: As

far as the administration is concerned, the Iran deal is here to stay despite objections from Israel and America's Arab allies." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Entous, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) notes that the Administration has offered to increase the \$3 billion in annual US military to Israel, but Israeli officials have refused to discuss the issue until Congress has voted on the Iran deal.

Kerry: Khamenei's Vow To Defy US Is "Very Disturbing." [Reuters](#) (7/21) reports Secretary of State Kerry said in an interview with Al-Arabiya that a speech over the weekend by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei vowing to challenge US policies in the region despite the nuclear deal was "very disturbing." Said Kerry, "I don't know how to interpret it at this point in time, except to take it at face value, that that's his policy. But I do know that often comments are made publicly and things can evolve that are different. If it is the policy, it's very disturbing, it's very troubling."

Gulf Leaders Protest Deal. In addition to Israel, [AFP](#) (7/21) reports the Gulf Cooperation Council on Monday "protested at what it termed 'contradictory' signals coming from Iran since its nuclear accord struck with world powers last week." GCC chief Abdellatif Zayani notes that while Iranian President Hassan Rouhani "was offering to turn a 'new page' with its Arab neighbours," Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "pledged to keep up support for Shiite opposition groups."

Former US Officials Endorse Deal. The [AP](#) (7/21, Riechmann) reports that a bipartisan group of 60 former national security leaders, ambassadors, military leaders and Cabinet secretaries signed a letter released on Monday in support of the nuclear deal with Iran. The signatories includes former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former national security advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft.

Gerald F. Seib writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) column that former undersecretary of state Nicholas Burns says the world should accept the deal, and now turns its focus to containing Iran's regional ambitions. At the same time, Burns says the "US estrangement of Israel has gone on too far and for too long," and the US should expand Israel's "qualitative edge" in armaments over its neighbors. Iran, he said, has to "see that we will take steps to protect our allies and our interests."

Former Foreign Service officer Eric Terzuolo writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) that the nuclear deal "was a case of a huge expenditure of effort to get the Iranians to undo something they never should have done in the first place," and says he is "convinced we soon will see Tehran violating the nuclear commitments it appears to have made."

Bush, Walker Disagree Over When To Go After Iran. The [Huffington Post](#) (7/20, Bobic, 194K) reports that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said over the weekend that the next president "needed to be prepared to take aggressive military action on their very first day in office, including against Iran." Meanwhile, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush "asserted during a town hall last week that unwinding the agreement on day one was an unrealistic promise."

Poll: Most Back Deal, But Questions Its Success. [The Hill](#) (7/20, Byrnes, 533K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that a ABC/Washington Post poll out Monday found that "most Americans" 56 percent, support the deal, but "doubt it will prevent Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon." The poll found that "more than six in 10 Americans — 64 percent — say in the poll that they are 'not so' or 'not at all' confident the accord will prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons."

Kirby: Release Of Americans Raised "Routinely" During Negotiations. Regarding the release of the four Americans being held in Iran, State Department spokesman John Kirby said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/20, 554K), "We certainly hope that they'll get released," adding that the issue "is something that Secretary Kerry raise[d] every single opportunity...over the course of these negotiations with his counterpart Foreign Minister Zarif. It's something we raise routinely on the sidelines of those discussions and will continue to raise them." Kirby asserted that the US requests the release of the three Americans being detained and "would like more information" about former FBI agent Robert Levinson's whereabouts, saying, "We do believe that Tehran has some information about him."

Trial Of WPost Reporter Likely Nearing End. The [AP](#) (7/21, Vahdat) reports that a lawyer representing Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian said Monday that the next hearing in his espionage trial in Tehran "likely will be the last, though she's still uncertain when that will be." Rezaian's lawyer, Leila Ahsan, told the AP "that the court has informed her the next session 'almost certainly' will be the last one before a verdict is reached." The [Washington Post](#) (7/21, Murphy, 5.01M) notes that Rezaian will mark one year in custody on Wednesday.

CHATTANOOGA GUNMAN HAS NOT YET BEEN LINKED TO JIHADIST GROUPS. While television coverage of the shootings in Chattanooga continues to be heavy – with the three networks spending more than eight minutes on the story – print coverage is getting somewhat lighter. The reporting generally focuses on two main areas: increased security measures at US military recruiting centers, and the ongoing investigation into the attack, which has yet to establish a direct link between gunman Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez and jihadist groups.

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/20, story 5, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported that in the wake of the Chattanooga shootings, the military “has ordered stepped-up security measures at recruiting centers across the country.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports that military officials said a directive issued Sunday night by Adm. Bill Gortney, head of the US Northern Command, calls on recruiting centers to implement new security measures while the Pentagon considers additional steps.

Adrianna Diaz reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, story 6, 1:10, Rose, 5.08M) that Indiana Gov. Mike Pence has “authorized National Guard troops in his state to carry personal weapons on base.” Diaz added that six other states “have authorized their guardsmen to be armed.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/21, Goldman, 5.01M) says that according to “law enforcement officials,” the FBI “has recovered a pistol that might have been privately owned and used by one of the Marines” killed in the attack. According to the officials, investigators are trying to determine whether the 9mm Glock “was used in an exchange with the shooter...and possibly wounded him.”

The other major focus of the coverage is the investigation into the motive for the attacks, with many reports stressing that investigators have not established a direct link between Abdulazeez and extremist groups like ISIL. [Reuters](#) (7/21, Hosenball) cites a source who says Abdulazeez may have been inspired by jihadist propaganda online, but notes that the source said authorities have not directly linked him to specific groups like ISIL. Similarly, on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, story 5, 1:40, Rose, 5.08M), Jeff Pegues reported that while officials say Abdulazeez “had been seeking religious guidance recently,” and looked at the writings of “Anwar Al Awlaki among others” online, they “have not turned up a direct link to ISIL or any other terrorist organization overseas.” Pegues added that investigators are “looking at the seven months that he spent in Jordan last year, but so far have not turned up any evidence that he met with extremists there.”

Brian Ross reported on [ABC World News](#) (7/20, story 5, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M) that US officials believe Abdulazeez “carried out his attacks in the apparent hope Allah would forgive his sins on earth, including drug abuse and financial failure.” Ross called the revelation the “first indication that Abdulazeez’s deadly attacks...were motivated by an extremist Islamic sense of Jihad.”

Miguel Almaguer said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/20, story 5, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) that Abdulazeez’s family “believes his personal struggles are at the heart of Thursday’s attack.” According to a family spokesman, “he jokingly called himself a Muslim redneck, was broke, deep in debt, and spent his last 72 hours before the shooting in a downward spiral.” [USA Today](#) (7/21, Winter, 5.01M) reports that Abdulazeez “was consuming sleeping pills, opioids, painkillers, marijuana and alcohol, he struggled with how to be a devout Muslim,” the family spokesman said.

The [New York Times](#) (7/21, Schmitt, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) quotes a “senior United States intelligence official” who said that long before last week’s attack, Abdulazeez “wrote about suicidal thoughts and ‘becoming a martyr.’” According to the Times, Abdulazeez’s writings “have provided investigators with their clearest picture yet of the gunman” as a “deeply troubled young man using drugs and facing an imminent appearance in criminal court on a charge of driving while intoxicated.”

A separate story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, story 7, 1:00, Rose, 5.08M) focused on the reaction in Chattanooga, which Charlie Rose described as “a city in mourning.”

Franklin Graham: Stop Muslim Immigration To US. Citing what he called the “growing ‘threat’ of Islam evidenced” by the Chattanooga shootings, evangelist Franklin Graham said that “Muslims must be barred from entering the United States,” the [Washington Times](#) (7/21, Blake, 621K) reports. In a post on his Facebook page on Friday, Graham wrote that the deaths in Chattanooga “are the result of ‘a radical Muslim whose family was allowed to immigrate to this country from Kuwait,’” adding, “We are under attack by Muslims at home and abroad. We should stop all immigration of Muslims to the US until this threat with Islam has been settled.”

Thiessen: Obama Plays Down Acts Of Terror. In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M), Marc Thiessen criticizes the President for failing to use the word “terrorism” to describe the Chattanooga attack,

arguing that it is “part of a long pattern of playing down acts of terror.” Thiessen writes that the President’s refusal to use the word “terrorism” in the Chattanooga case is “a symptom of a much larger problem: He does not want to be leading a fight against Islamic radicalism.” However, “you can’t defeat an enemy unless you are willing to name it,” and the President must “stop hiding behind rhetorical walls and call this what it is: Islamic terrorism.”

TRUMP’S REMARKS ON MCCAIN’S VIETNAM WAR SERVICE CONTINUE TO ROIL GOP RACE. The controversy over Donald Trump’s controversial remarks about Sen. John McCain’s Vietnam War service comments continued to receive widespread media coverage on Monday, including multiple reports on the three network news broadcasts. In its report, [ABC World News](#) (7/20, story 4, 1:40, Muir, 5.84M) showed Trump speaking this past weekend in Iowa, where he said that McCain is “not a war hero,” adding, “He’s a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured.” ABC’s Jonathan Karl added that McCain on Monday called “on Trump to apologize. Not to him, but to all vets.” McCain was shown saying of Trump, “What I think he should do is apologize to the families and those who have served.”

In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, lead story, 2:05, Cordes, 5.08M) reported that Trump on Monday sought “to change the subject,” saying via Twitter that “this story is no longer about John McCain. It’s about our horribly treated vets.” However, Trump’s GOP rivals “weren’t quite ready to move on.” Sen. Lindsey Graham, a GOP presidential candidate and close friend of McCain, was shown saying of Trump, “You shouldn’t be our commander-in-chief, because you don’t know our military,” adding that “McCain and everybody like him is an American hero.”

In a follow-up report on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/20, story 2, 3:10, Rose, 5.08M), Charlie Rose interviewed Trump by telephone, and the billionaire said that his dust-up with McCain “all started when I had 15,000 people in Phoenix a week ago, and he said they’re a bunch of crazies. That was very insulting to those people. They were great people. They were worrying about illegal immigration.” Of McCain, Trump added that “then we started the whole thing with the vets because he’s doing a lousy job, a terrible job with the vets.”

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/20, lead story, 2:25, Tur, 7.86M) reported that Trump on Monday refused “to apologize for saying John McCain is not a war hero.” Trump was shown saying on NBC’s “Today” program, “Well, I’m not a fan of John McCain. He’s done a terrible job for the vets.” Meanwhile, McCain was shown saying of Trump that “I think he may owe an apology to the families of those who have sacrificed in conflict and those who have undergone the prison experience in serving their country.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/20, 194K) reported that McCain, appearing Monday on MSNBC, said, “When Mr. Trump said he prefers to be with people who are not captured, well, the great honor of my life was to serve in the company of heroes. I’m not a hero. But those who were my senior ranking officers...those that inspired us to do things we otherwise wouldn’t have been capable of doing, those are the people that I think he owes an apology to.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/20, story 2, 2:00, Alexander, 7.86M) reported that at the time “McCain was locked in a North Vietnamese prison cell after surviving a plane crash in 1967 only to endure five years of interrogations and torture, Donald Trump, the son of a successful real estate developer, was on his way to an Ivy League degree.” NBC added, “Like many others, Trump avoided the Vietnam War draft thanks to four student deferments and a medical deferment for what his campaign describes as ‘bone spurs on both heels of his feet.’”

In a blog post on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M), Fred Barbash similarly said that having “avoided the Vietnam War draft on his way to earning an Ivy League degree,” the 21-year-old Trump in 1968 “had a job in his father’s real estate company and a brain bursting with money-making ideas that would make him a billionaire.” At the same time, McCain “sat in a tiny, squalid North Vietnamese prison cell,” his “body...broken from a plane crash, starvation, botched operations and months of torture. As Trump was preparing to take Manhattan, McCain was trying to relearn how to walk.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/21, Peters, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that on Monday, “veterans’ groups said Mr. Trump was in no position to criticize anyone, and denied that he is the longtime ally he claims to be.” Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America founder Paul Rieckhoff is quoted as saying, “Donald Trump is not a leader in veterans’ philanthropy, unless he’s donated a lot of money that nobody knows about.” And Veterans for a Strong America Chairman Joel Arends, whose group “defended Mr. Trump over the weekend,” on Monday said, “Don’t get me wrong, I think John McCain is strong on veterans’ issues.”

More Commentary. In his [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) column, Eugene Robinson writes of Trump,

"Attacking him with censure and shame is like trying to destroy Godzilla with electricity: It might just make him stronger." Robinson adds, "Even if the McCain flap were to cost Trump fully half of his support" in the polls, "he'd still be a top-tier candidate. The GOP isn't free of him yet. Godzilla is still on the loose."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) says that the GOP "is now cursed by association with Mr. Trump, a man whose foremost political talent is to reflect the worst instincts of American society." The Post adds that Trump's GOP rivals "should take note. Not because Mr. Trump's approach, if honed and translated into base-rousing dog whistles, might not attract votes. But because no one wants to live in a country whose leaders have no conception of courage."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) column, Fred Barnes says that Republicans are concerned Trump's harsh rhetoric on Mexico and Mexican immigrants might turn Hispanic voters against the GOP. Barnes says that in winning elections, other Republicans – such as Sen. Cory Gardner, who unseated Mark Udall in Colorado last year – have shown that by being respectful in how they address immigration, GOP candidates can capture a significant percentage of support from Hispanic voters, despite not backing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Franken Says Similar Comments He Made About McCain Were "A Joke." The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/21, Lopez, 1.28M) reports that Sen. Al Franken on Monday "said that past remarks he made more than 15 years ago — before he became a senator — about Sen. John McCain's military service were a joke." The Star Tribune noted that Franken was quoted as saying in a 2000 Salon article, "I have tremendous respect for McCain but I don't buy the war hero thing. Anybody can be captured. I thought the idea was to capture them. As far as I'm concerned he sat out the war." On Monday, Franken "said that he told a similar joke during his radio show, during an episode where McCain" appeared as "a guest in 2004." Franken said "that McCain understood the intent of the joke, and he praised the Republican senator for his 'amazing feat of courage.'"

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***"Formal Restoration Of Diplomatic Ties With Cuba Is Just A Beginning."*** An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says "full normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba will take years and will be an arduous process," and competing visions of Cuba's future "will eventually have to be debated and resolved among Cubans," changing "the image of the United States as an antagonistic neighbor stands to help enormously."

"A Senate Bill That Makes Roads And Railroads Less Safe." A [New York Times](#) (7/21, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorial notes that last month, the House passed an appropriations bill "that would put bigger trucks with overworked drivers behind the wheel on the nation's highways," and "if that weren't irresponsible enough, the Senate is now considering legislation that would allow trucking companies to hire 18-year-old drivers for interstate routes and undermine safety on roads and railroads in numerous other ways." The Times calls the bills "egregious examples of faithfully saying yes to everything industry wants," and says they "will lead to more accidents, deaths and injuries on American roads."

"New York's Big Money Loophole." The [New York Times](#) (7/21, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.24M).

WASHINGTON POST. ***"Human Rights In Cuba."*** A [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) editorial calls on US diplomats in Cuba to use their "newfound access to examine one of the most unsettling chapters in the history of the Castro dictatorship," the 2012 death of dissident Oswaldo Payá. The Post notes that in the wake of Payá's death, "others are carrying on the fight inside Cuba, and suffering for it," adding that they, "rather than the Castro regime, should be the focus of U.S. diplomacy."

"Gerrymandering Jig Is Up." The [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) editorializes that the 3rd congressional districts in Maryland and Virginia "seem to have little in common," but "what they share is a genesis in bald-faced gerrymandering contrived by politicians intent on manipulating electoral maps to their advantage by hand-picking their own voters." The Post adds that Democrats "are the culprits in Maryland's case; Republicans did the deed in Virginia." The Post notes that Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe (D) and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R), "prodded by the judiciary," are "moving toward some version of redistricting reform," which "would be a blow to the good-old boys in the state capitals and Congress, and a favor to voters, whose say in elections has been subjugated to partisan interests."

"Trump's Outrageous Behavior." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/21, 5.01M) says that the GOP "is

now cursed by association with [Donald] Trump, a man whose foremost political talent is to reflect the worst instincts of American society.” The Post adds that Trump’s GOP rivals “should take note. Not because Mr. Trump’s approach, if honed and translated into base-rousing dog whistles, might not attract votes. But because no one wants to live in a country whose leaders have no conception of courage.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “*Obama’s UN First Gambit.*” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorial says that regardless of Monday’s Security Council vote, Congress still has the power to reject the Iran nuclear deal. If the President vetoes such a measure, the Journal says, he will be sending a signal to Iran and the rest of the world that the American people do not support the deal.

“*Parent-Trigger V-Day.*” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorializes in support of a decision by a California judge that overruled efforts by school district officials to prevent parents from using the state’s parent-trigger law, which allows a majority of parents with students at a failing school to force changes. The Journal criticizes unions and school administrators for attempting to circumvent the law to preserve their power.

“*No Economic Mess In Texas.*” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/21, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) says that liberals predicted that Texas’ economic boom would collapse when oil prices fell sharply. However, Fed data released last week shows that despite the troubles of the oil and gas industry, the state economy continues to notch moderate growth. The Journal credits Texas’ low-tax, low-regulation environment for its resilient economy.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- Country Reveals Payout In Bias Case
- [A Costly Water Warning To Farm Districts](#)
- [Hola, El Nino](#)
- [High Seas, High Stakes On The Trail Of Sea Bass Pirates](#)
- [In A Conflict Over Coal, Two Ways Of Life At Stake](#)

Wall Street Journal:

- [Fed Lifts Capital Requirements For Banks](#)
- [Suicide Bomber Kills 31 In Turkish Border Town](#)
- [Democratic Party Machinery Shows Rust](#)
- [Lockheed Martin To Buy Sikorsky For \\$9 Billion](#)

New York Times:

- [ISIS Leader Takes Steps To Ensure Group’s Survival](#)
- [New York Prisoner’s Keys To Escape: Lapsed Rules, Tools And Luck](#)
- [US And Cuba Reopen Long-Closed Embassies](#)
- [In Chattanooga, A Young Man In A Downward Spiral](#)
- [Capitalist Soul Rises As Ho Chi Minh City Sheds Its Past](#)
- [Turkey Says Suicide Bombing Kills Dozens In Town Near Syria](#)
- [Hillary Clinton Draws Scrappy Determination From A Tough, Combative Father](#)

Washington Post:

- [Menendez Says Justice Dept Lied, Seeks Dismissal Of Corruption Case](#)
- [In Autism, A Sense Of Comfort And Identity, Not Dread](#)
- [Smugglers’ Haven In The Sahara](#)
- [Trump Takes Big GOP Lead In Poll](#)
- [Sanders Fires Up Activists On Left Feeling Burned By Obama](#)

Financial Times:

- [Gold Bugs Squashed By Aggressive Selling](#)
- [Banks Back Rival To Bloomberg Messaging](#)

Washington Times:

- [Mortgage Problem Could Haunt Clintons](#)
- [Obama Pressures Congress With Iran Fiat At UN](#)
- [Congress Gets Good Start In Futility Index](#)
- [House Considers Taking Federal Funds From Sanctuary Cities](#)
- [Cyberhackers May Be Authorized Users](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Flooding; Weather Forecast; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Tennessee Shooting-Gunman; Texas Jail-Inmate Suicide; Bill Cosby Allegations-Deposition; Cuban Embassy Reopened; Distracted Driving Campaign; Connecticut-Drone Guns; Stephen Hawking-Cosmic Communication Offer.

CBS: Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Donald Trump-Phone Interview; Severe Weather; West Coast Wildfires; Tennessee Shooting-Gunman; Tennessee Shooting-US Security Increase; Tennessee Shooting-Memorial; Cuban Embassy Reopened; Limousine Safety Investigation; SpaceX Rocket Explosion-Cause; Space Suit Preservation Campaign; FIFA President-Protestor Demonstration.

NBC: Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; Donald Trump-Background; Cuban Embassy Reopened; Cuba-US Embassy; Tennessee Shooting-US Security Increase; Severe Weather; Sexual Assault Cases-DNA Evidence.

Network TV At A Glance:

Donald Trump-Veteran Comments – 11 minutes, 20 seconds
 Severe Weather – 9 minutes, 15 seconds
 Tennessee Shooting – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
 Cuban Embassy Reopened – 7 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: US Military Facilities-Security Increases; Ashley Madison Website-Hacked; Donald Trump Veteran Comments-Polls; Severe Weather-Record Heat Reached; Severe Weather-California Bridge Collapse; Washington State-Interstate Closed.

CBS: Cuban Embassy Reopened-White House Comments; Iran Nuclear Deal-White House Briefings; Donald Trump Veteran Comments; New York City-Power Outages; Massachusetts-Child Remains Unidentified; British Open Winner.

NPR: Cuba-US Embassy Reopened; Iran Nuclear Agreement-White House Briefings; Severe Weather-Flooding; Burundi-Presidential Election; Harper Collins-Novel Review; Ashley Madison Website-Hacked.

FOX: Cuban Embassy Reopened-Kerry Comments; Donald Trump-Veteran Comments; US Military Facilities-Security Increases.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Departs the White House; arrives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; delivers remarks; departs Pennsylvania; arrives in New York, New York; tapes an appearance on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart;" delivers remarks and takes questions at a DSCC event; departs New York; arrives at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Begins a three day trip to Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles, California; and San Francisco, California to participate in a series of events focusing on the economy.

US Senate: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. OIAC – IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL — "Blocking Iran's Pathways to the Bomb: Role of Congress." Members of Organization of Iranian-American Communities (OIAC-US) network will host a Senate briefing on the Iran Nuclear Deal and reaction of the Iranian people. Sen. Roy Blunt will provide opening remarks and Ambassador Mitchell Reiss, former Director of Policy Planning at the United States Department of State will moderate a panel of experts including: Joe Lieberman, former Connecticut Senator; James Woolsey, former CIA Director; Dr. Olli Heinonen, former Deputy Director-General for Safeguards at the Intl. Atomic Energy Agency; Ambassador Robert G. Joseph, Former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security; Dr. Lawrence Haas, former senior White House official; Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy, American Foreign Policy Council. RSVP at info@IACA-MO.ORG Location: 325 Russell.

12 p.m. WALL STREET REFORM — Senate Democrats, joined by former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), will hold a press conference in the Capitol to mark the five-year anniversary of Wall Street reform and discuss

"ongoing Republican efforts to gut critical consumer protections contained in the legislation." Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Jeff Merkley (D-OR); Chris Coons (D-DE); Harry Reid (D-NV); Dick Durbin (D-IL); Charles E. Schumer (D-NY); Patty Murray (D-WA); Jack Reed (D-RI); Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Location: SVC-203.

10 a.m. — The Senate will convene. The Senate will recess from 12:30 pm until 2:15 pm to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 pm, the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R.22, the legislative vehicle for a Highway bill.

9:30 a.m. ARMED SERVICES — Hearings to examine the nomination of General Mark A. Milley, USA, to be Chief of Staff of the Army. Witnesses: General Mark A. Milley. <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/15-07-21-nomination> Location: 216 Hart.

10 a.m. JUDICIARY — An oversight hearing to examine the Administration's immigration enforcement policies. Witnesses: include: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Sarah Saldana and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Leon Rodriguez. <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/oversight-of-the-administrations-misdirected-immigration-enforcement-policies-examining-the-impact-on-public-safety-and-honoring-the-victims> Location: 226 Dirksen.

11 a.m. FINANCE — Markup of bill entitled "An Original Bill to Extend Certain Expired Tax Provisions." Location: 215 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. FOREIGN RELATIONS — Hearings to examine the nominations of Paul Wayne Jones, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Romania, Kathleen Ann Doherty, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, and James Desmond Melville, Jr., of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia. Location: 419 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS — Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety hearings to examine the Department of Labor's investment proposal for American families and retirees. Witnesses: Thomas Perez, Secretary Of Labor. Panel Two: Robert Litan, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Wichita , KS; Peter Schneider, President, Primerica Inc., Duluth , GA; Darlene Miller, President And CEO, PERMAC Industries; Scott Puritz, Managing Director, Rebalance IRA, Bethesda , MD. <http://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/restricting-advice-and-education-dols-unworkable-investment-proposal-for-american-families-and-retirees> Location: 430 Dirksen.

2:30 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. <http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings/closed-briefing-intelligence-matters-50> Location: 219 Hart.

US House: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. BRENNAN CENTER – HATE CRIMES — The Brennan Center for Justice presents a congressional briefing: "Hate Crimes: The Original Domestic Terrorism." Featuring: Michael Geman, Fellow, Brennan Center for Justice; Heidi Beirich, Intelligence Project Director, Southern Poverty Law Center; Dr. James J. Zogby, President, Arab American Institute. Location: 210 Cannon.

11 a.m. HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. Location: H-144 The Capitol.

3 p.m. CALL FOR NEW BUDGET DEAL — Senior Democrats and advocates for robust public services will call for immediate negotiations on a new budget agreement that "removes the threat of government shutdown and allows for responsible investments in health care, education, infrastructure, law enforcement, and other critical priorities." The press conference will take place after the Democrats meet with more than 150 advocates urging action. Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee; Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Ranking Member, Budget Committee; Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA); Emily Holubowich and Joel Packer, NDD United. Location: HVC-210 alcove stakeout location.

4:30 p.m. 'BRING BACK OUR GIRLS' — Rep. Frederica S. Wilson (D-Fla.), lawmakers, African advocacy groups and members of civil rights, religious freedom, labor and education movements welcome Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to the U.S. Capitol as they call for an agenda to secure the return of Chibok girls kidnapped by Boko Haram. Location: House Triangle.

12 p.m. — The House will meet for Morning Hour debate and at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 2256 – Veterans Information Modernization Act, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Dan Benishek / Veterans Affairs Committee) 2) H.R. 237 – FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2015, as amended (Sponsored by Rep. Ted Poe / Foreign Affairs

Committee) 3) H.R. 1557 – Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2015 (Sponsored by Rep. Elijah Cummings / Oversight and Government Reform Committee) 4) H.R. 1473 – John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2015 (Sponsored by Rep. Lou Barletta / Transportation & Infrastructure Committee)

4 p.m. VETERANS' AFFAIRS — Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, "Lack of Oversight of Interagency Agreements – VA Procurement Failures Continued." <http://veterans.house.gov/hearing/lack-of-oversight-of-interagency-agreements-va-procurement-failures-continued> Location: 334 Cannon.

5 p.m. OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM — Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets and the Subcommittee on Government Operations hearing on D.C. METRO: UPDATE: To continue oversight of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Metrorail system; To examine the role of the Office of Inspector General; To review the current and future financial situation of WMATA. <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/d-c-metro-update/> Location: 2154 Rayburn.

5 p.m. RULES — Business Meeting: H.R. 1599 Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015; H.R. 1734 Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103793> Location: H-313 Capitol.

Other: July 20 – 24. FORENSICS SYMPOSIUM — The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and its partners present the first-ever international symposium devoted exclusively to the topic of forensic science error management. Speakers, panels and posters addressing the ways to detect, measure and mitigate forensic science errors will open dialog about these "taboo topics." Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA.

GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY MARKETS SUMMIT — July 21 – 22. U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy John Kotek and the Chairman of the U.S. House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Energy Randy Weber (R-TX) keynote a Special Summit on Global Nuclear Energy Markets hosted by the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council. Location: Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave. NW.

CHEMICAL SECTOR SECURITY SUMMIT — July 21 – 23. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Chemical Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) are co-hosting the annual Chemical Sector Security Summit. As in previous years, the Summit will feature information vital for chemical security and will bring together key government and industry stakeholders with a shared mission and vision to enhance chemical security. Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA.

CSIS – SOUTH CHINA SEAS CONFERENCE — 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Keynote by Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Virginia), Chairman, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, U.S. House Armed Services Committee at noon. Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State keynote at 1:15 p.m. <http://csis.org/event/fifth-annual-csis-south-china-sea-conference> Location: Second Floor Conference Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

USDA – RURAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE — 11 a.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will hold a national media conference call to outline USDA support for 15 new electric infrastructure projects for rural areas in 13 states. DIAL IN: 800-857-9832 Passcode: ELECTRIC

U.S. CLIMATE PLEDGE — 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Energy Institutes Eule to Participate in Discussion on U.S. Climate Pledge. The U.S. Chambers Institute for 21st Century Energy Vice President Stephen Eule will be participating in a panel discussion for the diplomatic community sponsored by the American Council for Capital Formation regarding the United States Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Eule's analysis has determined that the U.S. will "fall far short of its climate commitment". Among the other panelists will be Neil Chatterjee, senior policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Roger Martella of Sidley Austin, LLP. Location: Cosmos Club, Powell Room, 2121 Massachusetts Ave NW.

DHS – HUMAN TRAFFICKING — 1 p.m. Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas delivers keynote remarks on the departments efforts to combat human trafficking at the Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign five-year anniversary event. The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for DHS's efforts to combat human trafficking. Location: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Headquarters, Julie Myers Conference Room, 500 12th St. SW.

AEI – DODD-FRANK – HENSARLING — 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Dodd-Franks unhappy fifth birthday: Remarks from

Chairman Jeb Hensarling. Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, speaks about where we stand today and what reforms are needed for robust economic growth. Preceding his remarks, Mark Calabria (Cato Institute), Chris Iacovella (Bloomberg LP), J.W. Verret (Mercatus Center), and Peter J. Wallison (AEI) will analyze why reform is necessary and take questions from the audience. Preceding his remarks, a panel of financial regulation experts will analyze why reform is necessary and where it is most urgent. Introductions will be made by AEI president Arthur Brooks (AEI) and Alex J. Pollock (AEI). http://www.aei.org/events/dodd-franks-unhappy-fifth-birthday-remarks-from-rep-jeb-hensarling/?utm_source=paramount&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mediadaybook Location: American Enterprise Institute, Wohlstetter Conference Center, 1150 17th St. NW, 12th floor.

CONGRESSIONAL SOFTBALL GAME — 6:45 p.m. U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) will host their annual softball game on the National Mall. Location: 3rd street on National Mall (RSVP for exact location. Final location will be determined Tuesday afternoon based upon filed availability.)

VOTING RIGHTS ACT AT 50 — 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the NAACP’s Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), will present a panel discussion celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Veteran political strategist and television commentator Donna Brazile will moderate the panel, which includes: Ari Berman, contributing writer, The Nation; Spencer Crew, Robinson Professor of History, George Mason University; Sherrilyn Ifill, president and director-council, LDF; Henry (Hank) Sanders, Alabama State Senate (D). Location: The National Museum of American History’s Wamer Bros. Theater at 14th Street and Constitution Ave.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “I’m your host, Jimmy Fallon, or as Donald Trump calls me, ‘Not a war hero.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Donald Trump got in some trouble for saying that John McCain is not a war hero and said, quote, ‘I like people that weren’t captured.’ In fact, Trump’s people are telling him to lay low for a while until this all combs over.”

Jimmy Fallon: “In fact, Rick Perry said Donald Trump is unfit to be president and called for him to immediately withdraw from the race. And then he said, ‘And that’s coming from me.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Hillary Clinton recently questioned Uber’s employment policies because she believes their employees should have benefits. Not to be confused with Bill, who believes his friends should have benefits.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Last week, President Obama met with the oldest living veteran, a 110-year-old woman who served in World War II. I’m not saying it’s been rough for Obama, but I think she’s aging better than he is.”

Seth Meyers: “Rick Perry said this weekend that he believes Boy Scouts would be better off if they didn’t have openly gay scoutmasters. Man, between the Boy Scouts and gay marriage, Republicans really don’t want gays tying the knot.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 22, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 7:00 AM

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please [contact](#) Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell, Deputy Secretary Connor Visit Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell To Visit Virgin Islands.](#)
- + [President Obama Rolls Out Federal Drought Plan.](#)
- + [Forest Chief Tidwell To Defend New Plan To Fight Fires.](#)
- + [OPM And NFFE Clash Over Temporary Employee Guidance.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Dedicates Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Visits Santa Cruz Island.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Rep. Clawson Seeks \\$500 Million To Buy Land In Everglades.](#)
- + [Rep. Zeldin Pushes For Safeguarding Long Island's Environment.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Deputy Secretary Connor Hosts Listening Session On Land Buy-Back Program.](#)
- + [McCain Bill Would Provide Education Savings Accounts To Native American Students.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Report Details Disrepair At Native American Schools.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Buy-back Offers Sent To Owners Of Fond Du Lac Land.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Applicants Sought For Summer Internships At Office of Insular Affairs in DC.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Judge To Hear Arguments In Deschutes River Spotted Frog Case.](#)
- + [BOR To Release Rio Grande Water This Week.](#)
- + [Comments Sought On Rio Grande Project.](#)
- + [Experts Discuss Options For Colorado River Basin.](#)
- + [California Official May Have Admitted To Collapsing Support For Delta Tunnels Plan.](#)
- + [Sonoran Institute's Dowdy Calls For Cooperation To Protect Lower Santa Cruz River.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [BOEM Evaluates 800-Megawatt California Wind Farm.](#)
- + [Rhode Island Celebrates Offshore Wind Farm, Long Island Looks To Follow.](#)
- + [New Developments May Make Wind Possibility For North Carolina.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: US Opens Up New York Coast For Wind Development.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [DOJ, Green Groups Reach Tentative Deal Over Montana Oil Lease Emissions.](#)
- + [Illinois AG Madigan Demands Peabody Prove It Can Pay Future Cleanup Costs.](#)
- + [Powder River Basin Resource Council Files Complaint Over Peabody Energy Mining Status.](#)

- + Cancellation Of Badger-Two Medicine Lease Welcomed.
- + Professor: Stopping Fracking Would Hurt Environmental, Economy.
- + Barrett: History Says Watch The DoI Coal Leasing Review.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + BOEM Proposes New Rules For Development Of Outer Continental Shelf.
- + BSEE Assists In Opening Oil Spill Response Test Burn Tank.
- + Environmental Groups Plan To Protest Gulf Of Mexico Lease Auction At Louisiana's Superdome.
- + Louisiana Could Partially Lose GOMESA Funds.
- + Additional Coverage: NASA To Advise BSEE On Offshore Drilling Risk Reduction.
- + Additional Coverage: BOEM Developing New Offshore Drilling Air Standards.
- + Additional Coverage Of Ocean Energy Portal.
- + WTimes: Decision To Scrap Atlantic Drilling "Knife To Backs Of Energy Producers."

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM Director Kornze To Testify Before Oversight Subcommittee.
- + Timber Payments To Oregon Counties Drop To Record Low.
- + RAMS Joins Gov. Dayton Critics Over Twin Metals Decision.
- + Two More Defendants Held Without Bail In Bunkerville Standoff.
- + BLM Granted Extension On Land Plans In Washington County.
- + Smith Mountain Fire Ruled Arson.
- + Additional Coverage Of Soda Fire Rehabilitation.
- + Meade: Government Actions In Wake Of Bundy Standoff "Oppressive."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Ceremony Held For Prime Hook Bridge.
- + Orphaned Bear Cub Now Has Foster Mother.
- + Two Baby Bald Eagles Born At The National Arboretum.
- + Additional Coverage: Death Of 5 Bald Eagles In Delaware Under Investigation.
- + Partnerships That Led To Louisiana Black Bear Recovery Praised.

National Park Service:

- + House Likely To Pass Three Parks Bills.
- + Transportation Secretary Foxx Pushes For Fixing US Bridges.
- + Cherry Blossoms Survive Cold Weekend.
- + Bill Would Designate Birmingham Civil Rights District As National Park.
- + New Logo In Support Of "Woods National Monument" Unveiled.
- + Trump Details Conversion Of DC Building Into Luxury Hotel.
- + Economic Impact Generated By Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Highlighted.
- + Crissy Field In San Francisco To Receive Improvements.
- + Worker Claims Retaliation By Yellowstone Concessionaire Over Asbestos Report.
- + Cumberland Gap To Celebrate NPS Centennial In April.
- + NPS Invites Fourth Graders To Participate In "Every Kid In A Park" Program.
- + Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area Invites Homeschooled Children To Outdoor Classroom.
- + Additional Coverage: Yosemite Fight Over Names Escalates as NPS Pushes to Cancel Trademarks.
- + Public Urged To Enjoy Spring Outdoors.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS And ESA To Share Satellite Data.
- + Study Finds "Substantial Probability" Of Monarch Extinction.
- + Profile Of Southern California's "Earthquake Lady" As She Leaves USGS.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Castro Pressed On Political Prisoners During Press Conference With Obama.
- + Bloomberg: Garland Nomination Not Swaying Republicans Or Motivating Obama Allies.
- + In AIPAC Speeches Clinton, Trump Offer Contrasting Views Of US Role In Middle East.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.

- + [Washington Post](#).
- + [Wall Street Journal](#).

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL, DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR VISIT MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. [Politico Pro](#) (3/21) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor were scheduled to check in with staff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on Monday. Jewell will also "meet with tribal and local officials." She said, "As the community continues to recover from the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, I know that deepening the strong partnerships already in place will be important to the healing process."

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/21, 2K) reports that Jewell "visited Burns, Oregon, to meet with community members Monday in Harney County." She "stressed the importance of community collaboration to counter extremism."

The [Oregonian](#) (3/22, 864K) reports that Jewell "concluded a day of tours and meetings in the Burns area Monday by declaring she intends to help trumpet a success that got overshadowed by acts of the armed protesters who took over the reserve Jan. 2." Jewell highlighted a story that "involves environmentalists, government, ranchers and 'a disaster averted.'" According to Jewell, "they worked together under the brand of the High Desert Partnership to protect the greater sage grouse while avoiding crippling federal regulation that could have upended ranching and logging in a weak economic region."

Additional coverage was provided by [Greenwire](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication), [The Hill](#) (3/21, Cama, 862K), [Bloomberg Government](#) (3/21, 1K), the [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (3/22, 479K), [Reuters](#) (3/21), [Townhall](#) (3/21, 132K), the [Portland Patch](#) (3/21), [KBND-AM Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (3/21, 112), [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (3/21, 256K), [KFXO-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/21), and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/21, 32K).

26th Person Charged In Malheur Occupation. The [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K) reports that "a Montana man accused of disturbing a sacred Burns Paiute archaeological site by using heavy equipment to dig a giant latrine for protesters became the 26th person charged publicly in the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." According to the article, "a judge on Monday unsealed the name of Jake Ryan that had been concealed in an indictment filed March 8 in U.S. District Court in Oregon." Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Gabriel said that "Ryan and fellow occupier Travis Cox are the only two of the 26 defendants who haven't been arrested."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT VIRGIN ISLANDS. The [St. Thomas Source](#) (3/21, 873) reports that "at the end of March," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "make her first visit to the Virgin Islands since being sworn in as secretary...in April 2013." Jewell will "arrive on St. Thomas March 29 for a two and a half day visit" and is "expected to visit St. John, and to be the keynote speaker at Transfer Day ceremonies on St. Croix and to meet with Gov. Kenneth Mapp."

PRESIDENT OBAMA ROLLS OUT FEDERAL DROUGHT PLAN. [Greenwire](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication) reports that President Obama on Monday "used his executive powers to expand federal efforts to reduce the nation's vulnerability to drought." According to the article, "on the eve of the White House Water Summit, Obama's memorandum elevates attention to the crisis and makes official the National Drought Resilience Partnership, a major multi-agency program rolled out as part of the administration's climate change agenda."

[Politico Pro](#) (3/21) reports that the National Drought Resilience Partnership has "for the past three years been working to improve coordination, communication and data-sharing around drought." According to the article, "the group is made up of at least 13 agencies, from the Department of Defense to EPA, and will be led by two co-chairs, one of whom would always come from the Department of Agriculture, and the other of which will

rotate among the agencies.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/21, 442K) and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/21, 591K).

FOREST CHIEF TIDWELL TO DEFEND NEW PLAN TO FIGHT FIRES. [E&E Daily](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication) reports that the Forest Service will “try again this week to sell a congressional committee on a new approach to pay for fighting forest fires.” According to the article, “stretched by annual budget transfers that officials say are draining money from other needs,” Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell will ask the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands “to help boost discretionary funding for fire suppression.” The Obama Administration has said that wildland fires “should be treated like natural disasters such as hurricanes and tomadoes, with a dedicated source of funds.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/21, Cama, 862K).

OPM AND NFFE CLASH OVER TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE GUIDANCE. [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (3/21, Ogrysko, 11K) reports the National Federation of Federal Employees says recent guidance from OPM undermines the legislative intent of the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act, passed last August, that aims to give temporary and seasonal federal workers the same job opportunities as permanent employees. OPM says that temporary works can only apply to merit based positions if they are not open to employees from other agencies, because the Act only applies to internal merit promotion procedures.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL DEDICATES BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was provided by the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/21, 73K), the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (3/21, 22K), and the [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (3/22, 22K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS SANTA CRUZ ISLAND. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s visit to Santa Cruz Island was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (3/21, 119K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REP. CLAWSON SEEKS \$500 MILLION TO BUY LAND IN EVERGLADES. Additional coverage of Rep. Curt Clawson’s Everglades Land Acquisition Act was provided by the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 131K).

REP. ZELDIN PUSHES FOR SAFEGUARDING LONG ISLAND’S ENVIRONMENT. In an op-ed for the [Southold Local \(NY\)](#) (3/21), Rep. Lee Zeldin highlights “opportunities” for “protecting and preserving the abundance of our natural resources that are so important to our life, culture and economy.” These include “stopping the sale of Plum Island” (H.R. 1887), “protecting the Long Island Sound by passing the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act” (H.R. 2930), and “improving the management of our fisheries, by passing the EEZ Transit Zone Clarification Act” (H.R. 3070) and Fluke Fairness Bill (H.R. 1888).

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR HOSTS LISTENING SESSION ON LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Red Lake Nation News \(MN\)](#) (3/8) reports that “the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) hosted more than 500 tribal leaders and landowners at its third Listening Session on March 3, 2016, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.” Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor, Special Trustee for American Indians Vince Logan, and Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Roberts “heard directly from tribal communities about how the Program can best be implemented across Indian Country.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (3/21).

Land Buy-Back Program Has Paid More Than \$735 Million Since 2013. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/21, 48K) reports that according to Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor, since the land buy-back program began “making offers in December, 2013, the buy-back program has paid more than \$735 million to individual landowners, and restored the equivalent of 1.5 million acres to tribal governments.”

MCCAIN BILL WOULD PROVIDE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TO NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS. Jackie Mader writes at the [Education Week](#) (3/21, 125K) “Rural Education” blog that Sen. John

McCain (R-AZ) has proposed a bill that "would provide education savings accounts to Native American students who attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools, which would allow students to pay for private school tuition, tutors, and educational materials." McCain's Native American Education Opportunity Act "would operate in Arizona, Mississippi, Florida, and Nevada, all states that currently have Education Savings Account (ESA) programs."

Additional coverage of the Native American Education Opportunity Act was provided by the [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (3/21, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT DETAILS DISREPAIR AT NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

Additional coverage of the report released by the Government Accountability Office detailing "health and safety threats" within the BIE system was provided by [KJZZ-FM Phoenix](#) (3/21, 8K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO OWNERS OF FOND DU LAC LAND.

Additional coverage that land buy-back offers have been made to 3,200 Fond du lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa landowners was provided by the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/15, 139K), the [Nation Sun News](#) (3/21), the [Pine \(MN\) Journal](#) (3/20, 15K), and the [Red Lake Nation News \(MN\)](#) (3/21).

Office of Insular Affairs:

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AT OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS IN DC.

[St. Croix Source](#) (3/21) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has "announced internship opportunities for the summer of 2016 at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) in Washington, D.C." Kia'aina said, "It is important to provide avenues for young students to learn about how the federal government works, given the important role that it plays in the islands. Through our internship program, we aim to build capacity so that participants can consider working for the federal government or have some federal experience under their belt when they return to help their respective communities. Last year's program set the bar, and we look forward to welcoming a new cohort this summer."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN DESCHUTES RIVER SPOTTED FROG CASE. The [AP](#) (3/21, 285K) reports that "a federal judge will soon hear arguments on whether to order a change in water management to benefit the Oregon spotted frog." WaterWatch of Oregon has filed a lawsuit claiming the BOR and "state irrigation districts are creating a cycle of flooding and drying along the Deschutes River banks that hurts the frogs." WaterWatch has "asked for a preliminary injunction on that activity to protect the frog, which was listed as a threatened species in 2014." According to the article, "the judge is expected to hear arguments in Eugene Tuesday but isn't expected to make a decision that day."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K) and the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/21, 94K).

BOR TO RELEASE RIO GRANDE WATER THIS WEEK. The [AP](#) (3/21, 1.99M) reports that "federal officials will release Rio Grande water destined for irrigation in southern New Mexico months earlier than last year." The BOR will "release water from Elephant Butte and Caballo dams this week, two months earlier than the water was unleashed last year." Mary Carlson, spokeswoman for the Albuquerque office of the BOR, said, "That did not start until the end of May last year. They have a little more water to work with this year. I think that is pretty much the case up and down the river."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/21, 285K) and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\) Albuquerque, NM](#) (3/21, 88K).

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON RIO GRANDE PROJECT. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/21, 47K) reports that "a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the continued implementation of a 2008 operating agreement that guides water sharing between irrigation districts in Doña Ana County and El Paso County is available for public review and comment." According to the article, "the document was prepared to analyze the environmental effects of continuing to implement the operating agreement until 2050 in what's known as the Rio Grande Project."

EXPERTS DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR COLORADO RIVER BASIN. The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/21, Loomis,

975K) reports water use in the Colorado River basin and on the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center conference, where experts discussed “a range of likely responses and challenges” relating to the Southwest’s diminishing water supplies. Issues discussed include water recycling and drip irrigation.

CALIFORNIA OFFICIAL MAY HAVE ADMITTED TO COLLAPSING SUPPORT FOR DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (3/21, Bacher, 6K) reports that “it appears” California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird admitted that support for Governor Brown’s Delta Tunnels Plan is collapsing, while speaking at a hearing in San Francisco by the Senate Select Committee on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta entitled, “Pending Delta Decisions and their Potential Economic and Other Impacts on San Francisco & the Bay Area.” Laird said that if the project were to go forward, “urban users” would have to sign up and be willing to pay for it themselves.

SONORAN INSTITUTE’S DOWDY CALLS FOR COOPERATION TO PROTECT LOWER SANTA CRUZ RIVER. In an [Arizona Daily Star](#) (3/21, 244K) op-ed, Sonoran Institute director Ian Dowdy wrote on the failed Tres Rios del Norte environmental restoration plan for the lower Santa Cruz River, which has “suffered significant decline due to groundwater pumping, diversion, drought and other impacts.” Dowdy says stakeholders must seek a regional solution for the Santa Cruz River “similar to the Tres Rios del Norte plan” to address challenges like Arizona’s water laws, and win public support.

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM EVALUATES 800-MEGAWATT CALIFORNIA WIND FARM. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/21, Eckhouse, 2.92M) reports that the US BOEM determined Monday that Trident Winds LLC is qualified to develop the first offshore wind farm in California and now looks to initiate the lease area’s bidding process if other companies are also interested. The proposed 800-megawatt wind farm could be the twelfth commercial wind lease awarded by BOEM, joining the 11 other previously awarded leases along the Atlantic coast.

Additional coverage was provided by [North American Windpower](#) (3/21, 43K), [Recharge News](#) (3/22, 633), and [SeeNews](#) (3/22).

RHODE ISLAND CELEBRATES OFFSHORE WIND FARM, LONG ISLAND LOOKS TO FOLLOW. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (3/21, Harrington, 1.23M) reports that Rhode Island will become the state with the first US offshore wind farm with the five-turbine Block Island project, which will provide 90 percent of the state’s power upon completion at the end of 2016. Block Island project developer Deepwater Wind and turbine supplier GE Renewable Energy have already built “five foundations in the seabed” near the Island. Rhode Island officials celebrated with a “pre-victory” event at the state’s Port of Providence terminal Friday. Long Island’s renewable energy advocates held a rally afterwards to urge Long Island to follow suit and approve a 90-megawatt offshore project.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS MAY MAKE WIND POSSIBILITY FOR NORTH CAROLINA. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/21, Peterson, 301K) reports on the American Wind Energy Association conference’s in Camden this week and the possibility of inland wind farms to produce energy in North Carolina’s coastal plains. Though offshore and inland winds in North Carolina have been considered insufficient for efficient energy production, “taller towers and bigger wind turbine blades are in development that could change the equation for both,” the Post and Courier says. Coastal Conservation League energy and climate director Hamilton Davis said “With the improved wind technology that is now entering the marketplace, South Carolina could also be able to tap into this resource.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US OPENS UP NEW YORK COAST FOR WIND DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the BOEM has “identified a Wind Energy Area (WEA) offshore New York” was provided by [Marine Log](#) (3/21, 249).

Onshore Energy Development:

DOJ, GREEN GROUPS REACH TENTATIVE DEAL OVER MONTANA OIL LEASE EMISSIONS. The [AP](#) (3/21, Volz) reports that Department of Justice attorneys and environmental groups “reached a tentative agreement to end a dispute over greenhouse gas emissions from federal oil and gas leases in Montana,” filing a

notice Friday that they have reached a settlement in principle over a lawsuit that "pushes the government to examine the effects on climate change when leasing public lands for energy drilling." The AP details the case and reports that the parties hope to finalize the deal within the month.

ILLINOIS AG MADIGAN DEMANDS PEABODY PROVE IT CAN PAY FUTURE CLEANUP COSTS. The AP (3/21) reports that Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan says she fears that Peabody Energy does not have sufficient bond funds to restore Illinois mining land if it is shut down. Madigan sent a letter to Peabody demanding the coal miner prove it has the \$92 million needed for potential mine reclamation.

Reuters (3/21) reports that in the case of bankruptcy, a judge would decide how to prioritize all of Peabody's liabilities that are not guaranteed by cash, bonds, or other securities.

POWDER RIVER BASIN RESOURCE COUNCIL FILES COMPLAINT OVER PEABODY ENERGY MINING STATUS. The Casper (WY) Star-Tribune (3/21, 77K) reports that the Powder River Basin Resource Council filed "a complaint with state regulators Monday alleging Peabody Energy and its subsidiaries are in violation of mining laws." The action is "the latest move in the Sheridan-based group's growing campaign to reform the laws governing mine reclamation, which have allowed coal companies to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in bond payments by posting their assets as collateral on future reclamation costs."

CANCELLATION OF BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASE WELCOMED. In his column for the Missoulian (MT) (3/21, 78K), George Ochenski welcomes the decision to cancel the contested lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area. However, Ochenski warns that "while this is a huge victory for the Blackfeet Tribe, Montana and the nation, the battle is not yet over." He notes that "there remain 34,000 acres in 17 existing leases, mostly owned by Devon Energy Corp., and the agency recommended cancelling those as well."

Additional coverage of the cancellation was provided by the Fairfield (MT) Sun Times (3/21) and Bakken (3/21).

PROFESSOR: STOPPING FRACKING WOULD HURT ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMY. National Defense University professor Paul Sullivan writes in The Hill (3/21, Sullivan, 862K) that fracking is one of the main reasons for current low oil and natural gas prices. Sullivan says halting fracking would increase natural gas prices, making coal more attractive as a cheaper source of fuel to detrimental environmental effect. He also argues that stopping fracking would have a negative economic impact through the loss of jobs and investments.

BARRETT: HISTORY SAYS WATCH THE DOI COAL LEASING REVIEW. In a Montana Standard (3/22, Barrett, 35K) op-ed, Evan Barrett writes on the history of federal leasing in Montana, in which "hard-rock mining companies removed the mineral wealth of the state, but paid little or no taxes to the state and its people" and mining barons "avoided federal indictment for illegally stripping huge areas of federal timberlands" while underpaying for the timber they took. Barrett draws parallels to federal coal leasing in which companies make payments "far below market value" that shortchange taxpayers by tens of billions of dollars. Barrett calls for active participation on the recently-announced Department of Interior federal coal leasing review so that Montana doesn't end up with "a system that cheats the public."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. The Hill (3/21, Devaney, 862K) reports that the Interior Department is "proposing new rules for development of the outer continental shelf." The BOEM proposed Monday new rules for the use of "sand, gravel and shell resources for shore protection, beach restoration, or coastal wetlands restoration."

Additional coverage was provided by the Dredging News Online (3/22).

BSEE ASSISTS IN OPENING OIL SPILL RESPONSE TEST BURN TANK. The World Oil (3/21) reports that the BSEE "helped oversee and execute a series of test in situ burns in the newly opened burn tank at the Joint Maritime Test Detachment in Mobile, Ala., to evaluate burns and train teams to respond to open water oil spills." The BSEE "provided \$458,000, contributing an analysis to find gaps in current knowledge of in situ burn techniques and support for the renovation and refurbishment of the Joint Maritime Test Detachment burn tank located on Little Sand Island just off the coast of Mobile, Ala."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PLAN TO PROTEST GULF OF MEXICO LEASE AUCTION AT LOUISIANA'S SUPERDOME. Grist (3/21, 7K) reports that "federal regulators will be auctioning off 43 million

acres of offshore oil and gas leases in the central and eastern Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday” at Louisiana’s Superdome. According to the article, “several national environmental organizations, including the Rainforest Action Network and [350.org](#), community members, and indigenous rights groups plan a rally outside the site this Wednesday to oppose new leases for offshore drilling leases.”

LOUISIANA COULD PARTIALLY LOSE GOMESA FUNDS. The [Shreveport \(LA\) Times](#) (3/21, 124K) reports “Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Coast will lose a significant chunk of its federal conservation funding” if the Obama Administration’s FY2017 budget proposal passes, because it “redirects” funds from Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (GOMESA). The Times reports the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition sent a letter to the Obama Administration petitioning for a return of funds to protect wildlife habitat, coastal communities, and land in coastal Louisiana.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NASA TO ADVISE BSEE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING RISK REDUCTION. Additional coverage that the BSEE is partnering with NASA “to capitalize on best risk management approaches from the aeronautics industry to offshore worker and environmental safety” was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM DEVELOPING NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING AIR STANDARDS. Additional coverage that the BOEM is “proposing to update 36-year-old regulations to make sure that offshore oil and gas activities do not significantly harm the air quality of any state in the U.S.” was provided by [gCaptain](#) (3/21, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OCEAN ENERGY PORTAL. Additional coverage of the Ocean Energy Portal was provided by [Xconomy](#) (3/21, 3K).

WTIMES: DECISION TO SCRAP ATLANTIC DRILLING “KNIFE TO BACKS OF ENERGY PRODUCERS.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, 285K) editorializes that with the Interior Department’s decision to scrap a plan for drilling off the coast of the Atlantic seaboard, President Obama “has once more applied the knife to the backs of conventional energy producers.” The Times also criticizes Hillary Clinton for “leading the cheers” for Obama’s decision. The paper calls the decision “part of the Democratic strategy for tipping the playing field to lackluster green industry” and a “cruel thing to do” to those who will pay larger energy bills due to the oil reserves left in the ground.

Oceana VP Praises Retreat From Atlantic Offshore Drilling. Oceana Vice President Jacqueline Savitz in [The Hill](#) (3/21, Savitz, 862K) praises the Obama Administration’s decision to retreat from a plan to allow drilling off the US Atlantic coast. Savitz touts the decision as a move away from fossil fuel use, an environmental victory, and a “win for democracy” that “shows that speaking out against powerful interests is not a vain pursuit.”

Patience Urged On Offshore Drilling. In an editorial, the [Greensboro \(NC\) News & Record](#) (3/21, 155K) raises some points about the recent decision to withdraw the Atlantic Ocean from offshore drilling. It notes that the Obama Administration will “leave office in 10 months” and “the next president can reopen the issue.” Also, “any deposits of oil and natural gas off the North Carolina coast aren’t going anywhere” and “they can be extracted at a future time when conditions are right — and perhaps more safely than could be done today.”

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary was provided by the [Anson \(NC\) Record](#) (3/21).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE TO TESTIFY BEFORE OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE. The [E&E](#) (3/21) reports that House Republicans will put the BLM’s “oil and natural gas leasing policies in the crosshairs this week during an oversight hearing that will also touch on the recent federal coal leasing moratorium.” BLM Director Neil Kornze is scheduled to testify Wednesday before the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior, “the latest in a series of recent congressional hearings taking a critical look at Interior Department land management practices.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (3/21, Collins, 1.07M) and [Bloomberg BNA](#) (3/21, 5K).

TIMBER PAYMENTS TO OREGON COUNTIES DROP TO RECORD LOW. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#)

(3/21, 2K) reports that “for the first time, the BLM and Forest Service combined for less than \$100 million in payments to Oregon counties.” Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley “welcomed the spending, but pointed out its tenuous future.” Wyden said “he wants Congress to reauthorize what he calls ‘vital aid.’” However, Merkley “added long-term solutions are needed for timber-dependent payment counties.”

In an op-ed for the [Oregonian](#) (3/21, 864K), Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, Josephine County Commissioner Simon Hare and Douglas County Commissioner Tim Freeman write that the BLM “neither pays its fair share nor contributes to the economy in a significant way.” They note that “Western Oregon counties are poised to sue the BLM for its ongoing failure to honor commitments etched in federal law, “but “rather than litigate, our counties strongly prefer to work with Congress to achieve a permanent, balanced and bipartisan solution. We thank members of Oregon’s delegation for previous efforts to find such a solution.” They argue that “sustainable timber harvest on O&C lands must be a part of the solution.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/22, 98K).

RAMS JOINS GOV. DAYTON CRITICS OVER TWIN METALS DECISION. The [Virginia \(MN\) Mesabi Daily Tribune](#) (3/22, Riebe, 60) reports the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools is criticizing Gov. Mark Dayton’s denial of approval to Access Agreement to Twin Metals Minnesota for a copper/nickel/precious metals mining project. Dayton has said that he was concerned that the Twin Metals venture falls within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness watershed, and called the Bureau of Land Management director to say Twin Metals’ federal lease holdings should not be renewed. Dayton’s decision was praised by environmental groups, and strongly criticized by state Republicans and some businesses.

West Central Tribune: Jewell Should Answer Save The Boundary Waters Request. The [West Central Tribune \(MN\)](#) (3/21, 49K) editorializes that Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell should respond to a Save the Boundary Waters request that she withdraw the minerals being targeted by Twin Metals from federal mining, and says the group “deserves an answer.”

TWO MORE DEFENDANTS HELD WITHOUT BAIL IN BUNKERVILLE STANDOFF. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/21, 479K) reports that “two more defendants, including one of Cliven Bundy’s sons, were ordered held without bail Monday as they await trial on felony charges stemming from the 2014 armed standoff with law enforcement near Bunkerville.” According to the article, “Melvin Bundy, 41, of Nevada, and Gregory P. Burleson, 52, of Arizona, were kept in federal custody following hearings.” The article says that “both pleaded not guilty but were declared a danger to the community.”

BLM GRANTED EXTENSION ON LAND PLANS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/21, 402K) reports that the BLM has been “granted an extension by a federal judge to finalize its land use plans for Washington County so the two can try to reach a compromise over a contested northern corridor transportation route.” The bureau “can miss the court-ordered June 30 deadline for its resource management plan and instead shoot for Dec. 31 in hopes the additional six months will result in the BLM implementing changes sought by the county.” U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups “granted the extension last week after a congressional subcommittee convened a rare oversight hearing last January in St. George.”

SMITH MOUNTAIN FIRE RULED ARSON. The [AP](#) (3/21) reports that “a wildfire last September in southeast Wyoming has been ruled an act of arson.” The Smith Mountain Fire that “burned in Albany and Carbon counties was originally thought to have been a controlled burn that got out of control.” The BLM said Monday that “evidence of multiple origins aroused suspicion, and an investigation determined a liquid was used to start the fire in multiple areas.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SODA FIRE REHABILITATION. Additional coverage of the Soda Fire rehabilitation effort was provided by [CounterPunch](#) (3/22, 16K).

MEADE: GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN WAKE OF BUNDY STANDOFF “OPPRESSIVE.” In a [Laconia \(NH\) Daily Sun](#) (3/21, 29K) column, Bob Meade reviews the chain of events leading to the Cliven Bundy law enforcement standoff, when BLM personnel “went into the grazing area,” and “began rounding up Bundy’s cattle,” and says that since the standoff, the government have been targeting Bundy supporters like USMC veteran DeLemus. Meade calls the government actions “oppressive” and accuses “well-connected” political insiders of profiting “at the expense of the citizenry.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CEREMONY HELD FOR PRIME HOOK BRIDGE. The [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (3/21, 355K) reports that “a ceremony was held Monday for a bridge in the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge.” According to the article, “the crossing is part of a \$38 million plan to build storm and sea level rise resiliency at the 10,144-acre refuge carried out by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The FWS and the Interior Department are “investing \$787 million in hundreds of Hurricane Sandy restoration and flood resilience projects.”

ORPHANED BEAR CUB NOW HAS FOSTER MOTHER. The [AP](#) (3/21, 808K) reports that “an orphaned bear cub now has a feisty and loving foster mother.” According to the article, “the head of Louisiana’s large carnivore program said Sunday that she was able to leave the cub with a new family in the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.” Maria Davidson said, “I was happy to get the cub back out in a wild nest where he belongs.”

TWO BABY BALD EAGLES BORN AT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM. The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Hedgpeth, 8.98M) reports that “now that two baby bald eagles have been born at the U.S. National Arboretum in Northeast Washington, the process of naming them has begun.” According to the article, “the two eaglets have been dubbed ‘DC2’ and ‘DC3’ by the American Eagle Foundation, the group behind the live-stream videos of the eaglets, which have gained huge popularity.” Officials with the FWS are “expected to put leg bands on each of the eaglets and take blood.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DEATH OF 5 BALD EAGLES IN DELAWARE UNDER INVESTIGATION. Additional coverage that “wildlife agents are investigating the deaths of five bald eagles” in Delaware was provided by [USA Today](#) (3/21, Fisher, 5.45M) and [RT](#) (3/21, 350K).

PARTNERSHIPS THAT LED TO LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR RECOVERY PRAISED. In an op-ed, the [Alexandria \(LA\) Town Talk](#) (3/21, 90K), Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, lauds the “hard work and partnership of many” that led to the delisting of the Louisiana black bear. According to Bean, “the rapid recovery of the Louisiana black bear is a testament to the power and importance of effective partnering and shows that states, federal agencies, and private landowners can make a difference for our nation’s imperiled species, preserving our natural heritage for generations to come.” He adds that “it’s also a testament to the power of the ESA.”

National Park Service:

HOUSE LIKELY TO PASS THREE PARKS BILLS. [E&E Daily](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication) reports that the House is “likely to pass three parks bills this week that appear to have attracted little opposition.” The article notes that “the most significant of the measures is H.R. 482, which would expand the Ocmulgee National Monument by about 2,100 acres and study adding lands along the Ocmulgee River.” H.R. 2857, from Rep. John Larson, would “revise a condition for establishing the Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, Conn., to require the state, city or private property owner to enter into a written agreement with the Department of the Interior to donate at least 10,000 square feet of space in the Colt Armory Complex.” Finally, H.R. 4119, by Rep. Steven Palazzo, “seeks to convey to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5699 about 1 acre of real property located within the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Jackson County, Miss., in exchange for a parcel of 1.76 acres.”

TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY FOXX PUSHES FOR FIXING US BRIDGES. [Today Show Online](#) (3/21, Rossen, Billington, 2.23M) reports that new government data found 58,495 “structurally deficient” bridges in the US. Joined by NPS officials Charles Borders, TODAY national investigative correspondent Jeff Rossen “visited the Arlington Memorial Bridge in Washington, D.C., where concrete blocks also fall off and the main support beams are rotting so badly that Rossen could put his whole hand inside the holes.” The Today Show reports that DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx admitted to the problem, saying it is “terrible, and it is getting worse by the year.” Foxx added, “No one has argued more strenuously for fixing these issues than I have.” Foxx argued, “Congress has to pass a package with enough resources to handle the problem.”

CHERRY BLOSSOMS SURVIVE COLD WEEKEND. The [AP](#) (3/21, 1.99M) reports that a spokesman for the NPS says “the expected bloom dates for the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin in Washington were not affected by this weekend’s cold weather.” According to spokesman Mike Litterst, “the forecast snow never materialized at the Tidal Basin and temperatures stayed well above freezing.” Litterst says “Monday night’s forecast is for near-freezing temperatures, but the peak bloom period is still expected to begin on or about Wednesday.”

Additional coverage of the cherry blossoms was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/21, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Press, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, Staff, 8.98M), [ABC News](#) (3/21, 4M), [Reuters](#) (3/21), the [Albany \(OR\) Democrat-Herald](#) (3/21, 44K), the [Silver Spring \(MD\) Patch](#) (3/21, 771), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/21, 4.92M), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/21, 352K).

BILL WOULD DESIGNATE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS DISTRICT AS NATIONAL PARK. [WBMA-TV](#) Birmingham, AL (3/21, 85K) reports that Rep. Terri Sewell is "introducing a bill to designate the Birmingham Civil Rights District as a National Park." The city says "a National Park designation could also open the door for gateway community funding, which means anything within a 60 mile radius from the park could be eligible for grants to improve the area leading into the park."

NEW LOGO IN SUPPORT OF "WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT" UNVEILED. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 173K) reports that "with a new focus to Lucas St. Clair's efforts to create a proposed North Woods national park comes a new campaign logo he debuted informally on social media this weekend, his spokesman said Monday." According to the article, "the new circular logo features drawings of a hiker in silhouette against a backdrop of an evergreen forest and Mount Katahdin with the slogan 'Maine Woods National Monument' wrapped around them." The article notes that "that's a departure from the rectangular logo featuring silhouetted drawings of people fishing, canoeing and snowmobiling and a moose over the words 'Katahdin Woods & Waters.'" According to St. Clair spokesman David Farmer, the change "naturally follows the progression of the campaign" and "it is not an indication that the effort to create a national park originally suggested in 2011 by entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby, St. Clair's mother, is over."

In a piece for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 173K), Jon Reisman, an associate professor of economics and public policy at the University of Maine at Machias, writes that "it seems a foregone conclusion that President Barack Obama will designate the Quimby holdings as a national monument sometime after the November election."

TRUMP DETAILS CONVERSION OF DC BUILDING INTO LUXURY HOTEL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Hendrix, 8.98M) reports presidential candidate Donald Trump "briefly reverted to Salesman Trump" Monday in order to "show off" the Old Post Office Pavilion in downtown Washington that he is converting into a \$200 million Trump International Hotel. "Super luxury, and it's going to be amazing," Trump told a group of reporters. He spent more than an hour "pointing out details of the Romanesque Revival edifice," and "seemed to equate his hotel with a national monument."

ECONOMIC IMPACT GENERATED BY ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR HIGHLIGHTED. [Niagara \(NY\) Frontier Publications](#) (3/21) reports that Rep. Brian Higgins joined Erie Canalway Heritage Fund Board Chairman Thomas Blanchard "late last week to detail the economic benefits the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor has across the state and right here in Western New York." The article says that "according to a study conducted by Tripp Umbach, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor generates \$307.7 million in economic impact, supports 3,240 jobs and generates \$34.9 million in tax revenues." According to the article, "the federal designation, which was set to expire in 2015, has been renewed through 2021."

CRISSY FIELD IN SAN FRANCISCO TO RECEIVE IMPROVEMENTS. The [AP](#) (3/21, 1.99M) reports that Crissy Field in San Francisco is "getting a makeover." According to the article, "this fall, the trail, in the shadow of Golden Gate Bridge, will be repaved and widened in certain spots." The article notes that "a \$2.5 million National Park Service grant, in honor of the park service's centennial, and matching private donations will fund the upgrades."

WORKER CLAIMS RETALIATION BY YELLOWSTONE CONCESSIONAIRE OVER ASBESTOS REPORT. The [AP](#) (3/21, Gruver, Press, 1.99M) reports that "a maintenance worker in Yellowstone National Park said a park concession company retaliated against him after he reported that he and five other employees were exposed to asbestos at a more than century-old lodge." Jon Kline said that Xanterra Parks & Resorts "began giving him poor reviews and declined to renew his contract after he reported the incident last March." Kline said "he has filed an employee retaliation claim that is still pending."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/21, Gruver, 285K), the [Washington \(DC\)](#)

[Post](#) (3/21, Mead Gruver |, Ap, 8.98M), and [US News & World Report](#) (3/21, 853K).

CUMBERLAND GAP TO CELEBRATE NPS CENTENNIAL IN APRIL. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/21, 228K) reports that Cumberland Gap National Historical Park staff is “organizing a three-day extravaganza” to celebrate the NPS Centennial. The “An American Memoir” event will be held “9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 9-11 at the park’s visitor center in Middlesboro, Ky., with almost 100 living historians on site.” According to the article, “during the weekend event, visitors and students will interact with the diverse people — slaves, indentured servants, bankers, farmers, merchants and blacksmiths — who journeyed through the nation’s first doorway to the West seeking freedom, land and wild game.”

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by the [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (3/21, 105K) and [KSMU-FM](#) Springfield, MO (3/21, 686).

NPS INVITES FOURTH GRADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN “EVERY KID IN A PARK” PROGRAM. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (3/21, 1K) reports that “in celebration of the National Park Service’s Centennial year, the agency has created a program where every 4th grader is eligible to visit the park with their family, for free.” According to the article, “fourth graders can print a paper pass from www.everykidinapark.gov, bring it to the visitor centers at Cottonwood, Joshua Tree or Oasis and exchange it for a pass card.”

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA INVITES HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN TO OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. [SurfKy](#) (3/21, 1K) reports that “homeschooler families are invited to use Woodlands Nature Station as their outdoor classroom in April at Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area.” The article notes that “fourth grade students can go to <https://everykidinapark.gov/>, get their free Every Kid in a Park pass, and get their family in for free.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YOSEMITE FIGHT OVER NAMES ESCALATES AS NPS PUSHES TO CANCEL TRADEMARKS. Additional coverage of the Yosemite trademark dispute was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/21, Press, 4.1M), [Fox News](#) (3/21, 9.42M), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/21, 15K), the [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (3/21, 12K), and [HotAir](#) (3/21, 87K).

PUBLIC URGED TO ENJOY SPRING OUTDOORS. In a piece for the [Anderson \(IN\) Herald Bulletin](#) (3/21, 53K), Carol Emmert, a founding director of Heart of the River Coalition, urges readers to enjoy the outdoors, now that “spring is here.” She also notes that “if you have a fourth-grader this 2015-2016 school year, Indiana’s state parks are accepting the passes from the ‘Every Kid in a Park’ program, as well.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS AND ESA TO SHARE SATELLITE DATA. [ExecutiveGov](#) (3/21, 548) reports that “the European Space Agency has inked technical agreements with NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey to allow the three agencies access to European Sentinel satellite data.” The ESA said that “the agreements will allow the three U.S. agencies to retrieve data collected by the Sentinel satellites from an ESA-operated international data hub.” According to the ESA, “the U.S. agencies plan to integrate the data to their EarthExplorer, GloVIS and other access systems for dissemination to their users across the globe and serve as an ‘interface’ between U.S. and European data utilization programs.”

Also, [FierceGovernmentIT](#) (3/21, Richman, 277) reports that the ESA established a new partnership with the USGS “last week in order to complement earth observing capabilities from the Landsat satellite series.”

STUDY FINDS “SUBSTANTIAL PROBABILITY” OF MONARCH EXTINCTION. The [E&E](#) (3/21) reports that “there is ‘substantial probability’ that the eastern population of monarch butterflies could be wiped out in the near future,” according to a study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* “that could affect the insect’s status under the Endangered Species Act.” The analysis, conducted by researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, and the USGS, “estimated the probability of a ‘quasi-extinction’ event, where so few butterflies remain that recovery is impossible, at between 11 percent and 57 percent over the next two decades.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (3/21, 472K) and the [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 195K).

PROFILE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S “EARTHQUAKE LADY” AS SHE LEAVES USGS. The [Los](#)

[Angeles Times](#) (3/18, Xia, 4.1M) profiles U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Lucy Jones who is leaving the USGS after 33 years "to help officials develop science-based policies related to climate change, tsunamis and other kinds of natural disasters." The Times writes Jones is "authoritative yet nurturing, the 'earthquake lady' has a knack for making a complicated point so simple it seems obvious. Along the way, she has dramatically changed the way the Southland prepares for earthquakes. Buildings are safer, first responders are better equipped and millions of residents have learned that the worst thing to do in an earthquake is to run outside."

Top National News:

CASTRO PRESSED ON POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING PRESS CONFERENCE WITH OBAMA. Media coverage of the President's first full day in Cuba remains largely favorable toward the White House. Reports, including the lead segments on all three newscasts, praise Obama's performance during a [press conference](#) with Raul Castro, crediting him – and his détente with Cuba – with forcing the Cuban leader to answer questions about political repression before a global audience. Getting the most media attention is [CNN](#) reporter Jim Acosta's query to Castro about political prisoners, which reportedly made the Cuban leader visibly uncomfortable. [NPR](#) (3/21, Peralta, 1.81M), in fact, reported that Castro's "uneasiness was apparent as soon as journalists began asking questions," something that was not "supposed to" take place. A "last minute change," however, "made that possible," and Obama "called first on...Acosta, who is Cuban-American." It was, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Eilperin, Deyoung, 8.98M) this morning, "an extraordinary news conference," a "public exchange...virtually unprecedented in Cuba." In contrast to Castro, adds the Post, Obama "seemed to relish the opportunity to display his comfort in discussing both the things they agreed on, and those they did not."

As [Politico](#) (3/21, Dove, 1.07M) puts it, "In Cuba, just having a press conference is news." Obama himself made that point in an interview with [ABC World News](#) (3/21, lead story, 6:00, Muir, 5.84M), in which he said that during his meeting with Castro, he had indicated to him "that we can't force changes on Cuba, but what we can do and will continue to do is to stand up for the rights that we consider to be universal." The press conference that followed that meeting "may be the first time that Raul Castro ever stood in front of not just US press, but also Cuban press and answered questions. And that could not have happened unless we had changed this policy." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, lead story, 3:25, Holt, 7.86M) similarly said that Castro took questions from the press "after pressure" from Obama.

[The Hill](#) (3/21, Fabian, 862K) also indicated that "it was the first time Castro took questions from the American press, reportedly at White House officials' insistence, and the communist leader was clearly uncomfortable." The [AP](#) (3/21, Lederman) refers to a "stunning diplomatic display," and the [New York Times](#) (3/22, Davis, Cave, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says "both men have ventured into diplomatic territory that had eluded their predecessors."

Pressed by Acosta on his treatment of political dissidents, the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, Castro actually denied that there are any political prisoners in Cuba, though "just yesterday the regime arrested more than two dozen protesters." [ABC World News](#) (3/21, story 2, 1:10, Muir, 5.84M) said it was a "tense moment," while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/21, Parsons, 4.1M) recounts that Castro "bristled," first pretending "his headphones with the translation weren't working," and then countering, "Show me a list. ... Tell me a name. ... If you can show me one, I'll release them tonight." The [Miami Herald](#) (3/22, Whitefield, 803K) notes that "within minutes" of Castro's reply, "human-rights groups were sending out lists of detainees, ranging from the dozens to the hundreds." To [Mother Jones](#) (3/21, Oh, 1.03M), the Cuban leader "appeared defensive," and [Politico](#) (3/21, Dove, 1.07M) says that while Castro answered the question, "Obama looked on with a smile."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/21, Doming, 289K) reports that at the end of his response to Acosta, Castro criticized the US' record on human rights, focusing on "the US health and education systems as examples" of US abuses. Said Castro, "We find it inconceivable that a government does not defend and insure the right to health care, education, social security, food provision and development, equal pay and the rights of children. ... We oppose political manipulation and double standards in the approach to human rights." [People](#) (3/21, McAfee, 45.51M) noted that Obama replied, "President Castro has pointed out in his view that everybody gets decent education or healthcare are universal human rights as well. I personally don't disagree with him, but it doesn't detract" from other issues. [Politico](#) (3/21, Gass, 1.07M) quoted Obama as further stating, "President Castro has also addressed what he views as shortcomings in the United States," and "we welcome that constructive dialogue as well. Because we believe that when we share our deepest beliefs and ideas with an attitude of mutual respect, that we can both learn and make the lives of our people better." The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, Boyer, 285K) summarizes the exchange in a story headlined "Obama Lets Castro Criticize US Shortcomings."

[Reuters](#) (3/21, Trotta, Spetalnick) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) run similar reports on the press conference, noting that Castro strongly objected to the US presence in Guantanamo and to the decades-long trade embargo. [TIME](#) (3/21, Rhodan, 18.01M) noted on its website that Obama told reporters that “he’s confident the embargo will end, but, ‘When, I can’t be entirely sure.’” [Vox](#) (3/21, Beauchamp, 758K) reported, “Judging from some early Obama comments, it looks like he’s trying to debut something along the lines of the US approach to China,” where “the US certainly makes an issue of Chinese human rights violations, but...is unwilling to seriously threaten trade ties over domestic repression.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, lead story, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that also yesterday, in a “striking image,” Obama stood in Havana’s revolution square “with a giant outline of...Che Guevara looking down, a gesture to a troubled past on a day...Obama focused on the future.” Both leaders, says [USA Today](#) (3/21, Korte, 5.45M), “reviewed an honor guard at the Palace of the Revolution and listened to the national anthems of both countries.” In the evening, [USA Today](#) (3/21, Korte, 5.45M) reported on its website, the Obamas attended a state dinner given by Raul Castro. The event “was decidedly less formal than the black-tie state dinners hosted by the White House,” and the Obamas “were met with applause when they arrived at the Palace of the Revolution.”

In its coverage, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Deyoung, 8.98M) also remarks on the fact that Obama will not meet with Fidel Castro during his visit, and muses that “assuming Fidel...even wanted to meet with Obama, it would be bad optics for the administration,” as the White House “sees the visit as the pinnacle of Obama’s forward-looking policy of international engagement,” and Raúl Castro, “who grinned and gripped Obama’s hand when they met Monday, is the face for US normalization with Cuba.”

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, A1, Miroff, 8.98M) reports that earlier on Monday, Obama “hosted a business summit at a beer brewery,” and “it seemed to signal the beginning of a business comeback.” The President “was heartily cheered by Cuban small-business owners, American executives and others who support his stated goal of ending the embargo.” Reporting on that event, [USA Today](#) (3/21, Korte, Gomez, 5.45M) remarks that “it’s fair to say...Obama has learned at least one word of Cuban Spanish since normalizing relations with communist Cuba 15 months ago. Cuentapropista.” The term refers to “self-employed people” who “work outside state-sponsored business, either as sole proprietors or employees of small businesses, mostly in the service industries: cab drivers, restaurant owners, barbers, mechanics and even cigarette-lighter repairmen.” Obama told a group of entrepreneurs, “With help from services like AirBnB, more Americans are staying at your casas particulares and eating at your palandars, like my family did last night. ... The food was really good, even if my Spanish is not that great.”

[ABC World News](#) (3/21, story 10, 1:30, Muir, 5.84M) noted last night that both the Marriott and Starwood hotel companies received approval this week to run “several landmark Havana hotels.” The deals come amid a “surge in American tourism,” which has left Cuban hotels “near capacity” and has Airbnb offering “more than 4,000 rental properties across the island.” On that note, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, Miroff, 8.98M) reports that “instead of blocking off the forces of American capitalism, the Obama administration now wants them to come flooding in – and leave it up to the Cuban government to deal with the consequences.” Critics, however, “say Cuban officials will know how to extract the financial benefits without ceding political control or allowing a Cuban middle class to develop that could demand greater freedoms.”

[Yahoo! Finance](#) (3/21, Jones-Cooper, 4.91M), meanwhile, noted that “according to research conducted by Hopper, flight prices from the US to Cuba could drop 50% if all travel restrictions are lifted between the two countries.” While “currently, the average price of a round-trip flight originating in the US to Cuba costs \$717,” Hopper “predicts that the average round-trip flight will drop to \$364, with nonstop flights from Miami to Cuba hovering around a projected \$275.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Robles, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), meanwhile, highlights the “tens of thousands of Cuban millennials” who have given up on Cuba and headed north, and notes “a surprising statistic”: “More than twice as many Cubans went to live in the United States last year than in 1959.” Cuba “is bleeding doctors, small-business owners, construction workers and waitresses.”

“Awkward High-Five-Hand-Shake-Limp-Wrist-Grab-Thing” Earns Media Mockery. A number of media reports highlight the final episode in yesterday’s historic press conference. [USA Today](#) (3/21, 5.45M) refers to “a historically awkward high-five-hand-shake-limp-wrist-grab-thing,” while [NPR](#) (3/21, Wagner, 1.81M) said that “what began as a regular handshake morphed into ... something else,” adding the “move most closely resembled a wrestling referee announcing the winner of a wrestling match. Only way more awkward.” The [Huffington Post](#)

(3/21, Ferguson, 518K) reported that “Castro ended up holding Obama’s arm in the air for a few pain-inducing moments as they smiled for the cameras,” and [The Hill](#) (3/21, Byrnes, 862K), among other news outlets, runs a similar account.

Ten Dissidents Arrested Sunday “Remain Unaccounted For.” [Voice of America](#) (3/21, Macchi, 60K) reported that “while Cuban officials have released the majority of some 50 Ladies in White dissidents arrested at their weekly demonstration here Sunday afternoon, 10 remain unaccounted for,” according to Berta Soler, the group’s leader. Under the headline “Castros Welcome Obama To Cuba With A Slap In The Face,” Marc A. Thiessen criticizes the Sunday arrests in his [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) column, and points out that Obama “had promised not to visit Cuba under such conditions.” Thiessen indicates that “in 2014, Obama said he would visit Cuba only if ‘I with confidence can say that we’re seeing some progress in the liberty and freedom. ... I’m not interested in just validating the status quo.’” Along those lines, in an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) expresses hope that Obama’s visit will lead to freedom in Cuba, but concludes that so far it has only boosted the regime’s standing.

Also in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Hunt, Leonard, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Hayes Hunt and Tom Leonard, attorneys who represent Milagros Maria Suarez and the estates of Rafael Del Pino Jr. and Rafael Del Pino – all victims of Castro repression – implore US officials to tie any further loosening of economic pressure on Cuba to tangible political reforms. Eugene Robinson, in his [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) column, says Obama’s visit will accomplish just that: It “will almost surely hasten the day when Cubans are free from the Castro government’s suffocating repression.” Asks Robinson, “Did you see the rapturous welcome the president and his family received in Havana? Cubans seem to have a much more clear-eyed – and hopeful – view than Obama’s shortsighted critics.”

Some Cuban-Americans In Miami Protest Obama Trip. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, story 2, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M), David Begnaud reported from Miami’s little Havana, where a group of Cuban-Americans held protests against Obama’s visit, calling his presence on the island “betrayal.” However, Begnaud said that while little Havana was once the scene where demonstrations regarding Cuba drew tens of thousands, “in a sign of the time, today there were less than 30.” However, says the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), “most Cuban-Americans” in Miami “welcomed Mr. Obama’s journey to the island as the latest breakthrough in the stalemate between the two countries,” taking a stance “that not long ago would have seemed as unimaginable as Monday’s historic presidential meeting of the once-avowed Cold War enemies.”

BLOOMBERG: GARLAND NOMINATION NOT SWAYING REPUBLICANS OR MOTIVATING OBAMA ALLIES. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/21, Dennis, 289K) reports by nominating Merrick Garland, a “63-year-old white man with a record moderate enough to win the praise of” Sen. Orrin Hatch, for the Supreme Court, the President “spumed” allies who “wanted him to name a minority who would make history, a younger outspoken progressive, or preferably both.” As a result, the President’s allies find themselves “selling the nomination process more than the man himself as they try to pressure Republican senators,” and the President could “face an enthusiasm gap when it comes to trying to use Garland’s nomination to motivate the party’s base to turn out in November.” Liberal groups “are launching campaigns to pressure Republicans,” but they are not “rallying around Garland so much as they are rallying against Republicans for obstructing the president.” Meanwhile, Garland’s reputation as a moderate appears to be doing little “to sway Republicans to drop their blockade and grant him a hearing and a vote on the Senate floor.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the “bitter impasse” over Garland’s nomination is raising the “once unthinkable possibility” that presidents “may no longer be confident of filling a Supreme Court vacancy unless their party controls the Senate,” which would “mark a real departure from past practice” when senators have “been willing to back nominees offered by the opposition even if they had some qualms about them.”

Garland Refused Review To Priests Seeking Relief From Contraceptive Mandate. The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, Richardson, 285K) says a circuit court ruling in which Garland joined a 6-3 majority “denying further review to religious, pro-life groups being forced to comply with the US Department of Health and Human Services’ contraception mandate” will provide conservatives with “a window into...Garland’s jurisprudence.” In the case, the Archdiocese of Washington and Priests for Life argued “an accommodation to the contraceptive mandate still forced them to take steps to procure potentially abortion-inducing drugs for their employees,” but the circuit court said they “were mistaken about how the law really works.” The case is “one of seven that has been consolidated into *Zubik v. Burwell*, which will be heard before the Supreme Court on Wednesday.”

Before Scalia’s Death, Roberts Said Senate Should Leave Politics Out Of Nomination Process. The [New](#)

[York Times](#) (3/21, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) highlights "blunt remarks about the Supreme Court nomination process" delivered by Chief Justice John G. Roberts 10 days before the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. In the remarks, which the Times cast as "a stern, if abstract rebuke to the Republican senators" refusing to hold hearings on Garland, Roberts said the Senate "should ensure that nominees are qualified...and leave politics out of it." The Times adds that some hope Roberts "will speak out again, and more directly, addressing the actual nomination of an actual nominee."

Monmouth Poll: Majority Of Americans Say Senate Should Consider President's Nominee. [Politico](#) (3/21, Gass, 1.07M) reports a Monmouth University poll released Monday shows a majority of Americans believe the Senate should consider the Garland nomination "regardless of the fact that it comes at the end of [the President's] term." According to the poll, 53 percent of Americans "agreed with the concept that the president has the constitutional power to nominate Supreme Court justices and that the Senate should consider those nominations even if they occur at the end of his term," while "43 percent said that court vacancies should be put on hold until the end of the current president's term so that voters can have a say in deciding the next president." In addition, 69 percent of Americans said the Senate should hold hearings on Garland, while 25 percent said it should not.

IN AIPAC SPEECHES CLINTON, TRUMP OFFER CONTRASTING VIEWS OF US ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST. All of the presidential candidates except Bernie Sanders addressed the annual AIPAC convention Monday, but media coverage focuses heavily on the speeches from Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The [New York Times](#) (3/21, Landler, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Clinton and Trump "presented sharply different views on how the United States should deal with the Middle East and its relationship with Israel" and casts the two candidates' speeches as previewing "for an influential pro-Israel audience a debate on foreign policy that could play out this fall if they face each other in the general election."

While [Reuters](#) (3/21) says Clinton told the group Iran continues to be a threat to Israel and must be watched, media coverage of her speech focuses almost exclusively on her criticism of Trump and his foreign policy positions. While she did not mention the GOP frontrunner by name, she delivered a "rock-ribbed speech" to the group in which, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Landler, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, she "previewed how she might confront Mr. Trump on foreign policy." Clinton pledged to "stand unyieldingly with Israel and warned that" Trump "would be an unreliable partner for one of America's closest allies." Clinton said, "We need steady hands, not a president who says he's neutral on Monday, pro-Israel on Tuesday, and who-knows-what on Wednesday." The Times calls Clinton's speech "a thunderous affirmation of American solidarity with Israel," and [Reuters](#) (3/21) says she argued US leaders need to show loyalty to Israel and "anyone who doesn't understand that has no business being our president."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) said Clinton "unleashe[d] a stinging attack on Trump over support for Israel," and Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/21, story 6, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Clinton "argued the Middle East is no place for Trump to practice 'the art of the deal,'" adding the comment "reflected her growing focus on the likely GOP nominee." However, "the latest CBS News/New York Times poll shows her national lead over [Bernie] Sanders has shrunk to its smallest margin yet, just five points."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/21, Sherfinski, 285K) says Clinton took "unnamed but direct swipes" at Trump, and [Roll Call](#) (3/21, Bowman, 126K) similarly reports Clinton "took aim" at Trump "without even saying his name," including "referencing violence at his rallies, his apparent hesitation to disavow an endorsement from a white supremacist, his push to deport illegal immigrants, and his call to temporarily bar all Muslims from entering the United States." Clinton said, "Now, in a democracy we're going to have differences. But what Americans are hearing on the campaign trail this year is something else entirely. ... America should be better than this and I believe it's our responsibility as citizens to say so. If you see bigotry, oppose it. If you see violence, condemn it. ... If you see a bully, stand up to him." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports Clinton argued Trump's foreign policy positions could undermine US leadership around the world and damage important alliances.

In his speech, Trump vowed to "protect Israel from threats ranging from the Iran nuclear deal to the possibility that the United Nations would seek to impose some sort of settlement with the Palestinians," [USA Today](#) (3/21, Jackson, 5.45M) reports. Trump, who has "previously said he would be neutral between the Israelis and the Palestinians," described the Palestinians "as unwilling partners and said they will have to stop attacks on Israel before he would support any kind of agreement." Trump, who read prepared text from a teleprompter, told the group, "When I become President, the days of treating Israel like a second-class citizen will end on day one," and "pledged to move the US embassy in Israel to 'the etemal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem.'" On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), Katy Tur called the speech Trump's "chance to prove that

he has international credibility," adding that he outlined "a non-interventionist platform, even questioning the country's long-standing involvement in NATO." In another report, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/21, story 3, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M) said Trump was "looking to silence his skeptics" with the AIPAC speech.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"The Kurds' Push For Self-Rule In Syria."* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says an "important political outcome of the Syrian war could be a decision by Syrian Kurds to establish a semiautonomous region in the northern part of the country." While this involves risk, it could "offer a model for decentralized governance in a federated Syria." Noting that the Kurds have said they are seeking "a democratic region in which they, Arabs and other ethnic groups can live together," the Times says the idea may be "worth building on as part of a political solution to end the war and the slaughter of civilians."

"A Partisan Prescription For Paralysis." The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes against the US Senate Republicans' treatment of Obama's nominations, saying that their refusal to take up Judge Merrick Garland's nomination for the Supreme Court "is only the most glaring example." There are currently "143 people awaiting confirmation for nonjudicial federal jobs." It highlights the cases of Adam Szubin nominated to the post of under secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence in the Treasury Department, Eric Fanning nominated to be secretary of the Army, Roberta Jacobson as ambassador to Mexico. The Times says Republicans are "driven by a desire to retaliate against the administration when they have lost policy debates."

"Elegant Bird Discovers Junk Food." The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes on the migration of white storks from Europe to Africa which apparently "is being disrupted by the birds' growing addiction to junk food in the garbage dumps below their flight path." As a result, more are staying in Spain and Portugal and not flying to Africa. The Times says that the storks' ability to adapt will be tested by the EU's new policy prohibiting open air garbage dumps.

WASHINGTON POST. *"We Met With Donald Trump. Electing Him Will Still Be A Radical Risk."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M), which has been critical of Donald Trump's candidacy, credits him for sitting down Monday with its editorial board, but says "his answers left little doubt how radical a risk the nation would be taking in entrusting the White House to him." The Post cites Trump's "breezy willingness to ignore facts and evidence," and "the chasm between his expansive goals and the absence of proposals to achieve them," and argues an "empty policy basket makes almost impossible the kind of substantive debate on which democracies depend." A full transcript of Trump's meeting with the Post editorial board can be seen [here](#).

"A Step Toward Making Campuses Safe From Guns." The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) editorializes in favor of a bill pushed by Maryland Democratic Senate President Thomas Mike Miller Jr. that would ban guns on public university and college campuses in the state and send violators to prison. Miller "is a gun owner who has long kept his distance from gun control legislation, but in this instance he is applying a common-sense standard," because the gun ban would make schools safer, particularly by limiting the risk of mishaps.

"An Important Step Forward For Self-Government In The District." The [Washington Post](#) (3/21, 8.98M) editorializes that DC Superior Court Judge Brian Holeman's decision Friday upholding the right of DC lawmakers to spend locally-raised tax funds without first receiving congressional approval is "an important step forward in the District's ongoing struggle to gain the fundamental rights enjoyed by other U.S. citizens." The Post says such autonomy will streamline the District's budget process and "removes any threat of the District getting caught up in potential federal shutdowns."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Obama's Havana Promenade."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) expresses hope that President Obama's visit will lead to freedom in Cuba, but concludes that so far it has only boosted the regime's standing before the world.

"Divesting Of Campus Outrage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the letter sent by 230 Columbia University faculty members to the school's trustees on Sunday offered a rebuke of the growing movement demanding that schools boycott, divest, and sanction Israel. A student group had gathered signatures from 70 faculty members in favor of such demands, but the Journal says the signees mostly teach in scholarly fields where the truth is not clearly defined. The Journal adds that those who signed Sunday's letter understand the divestment campaign is really an effort to smear the Jewish people.

“The Supreme Court’s Eight Gun Salute.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/21, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the Supreme Court’s unsigned but unanimous opinion Monday that stun guns are protected under the Second Amendment is a significant reminder that the High Court’s 2008 Heller precedent – which explicitly rebuked the idea that only weapons useful in warfare are protected – should be enforced rather than opposed.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[U.S. May Not Need Apple’s Phone-Hack Help After All](#)
[Obama And Raul Castro Spar Over Human Rights](#)
[Court Battle Spreads To Spring States](#)
[Trump Making It Harder For GOP To Expand Into O.C.](#)
[Scouting India](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[US Says ‘Outside Party’ Could Unlock Terrorist’s iPhone](#)
[Cruz’s Stealth Delegate Hunt](#)
[Obama, Castro Acknowledge ‘Serious Differences’ Amid Historic Visit](#)
[Pope Francis Forces Divisions Over Divorce Into The Open](#)

New York Times:

[Cuba Meeting Between Obama And Castro Exposes Old Grievances](#)
[US Says It May Not Need Apple’s Help To Unlock iPhone](#)
[Donald Trump Pushes Serious Image In The Capital](#)
[Most Republicans Feel Embarrassed By Campaign, Poll Says](#)
[John Roberts Criticized Supreme Court Confirmation Process, Before There Was A Vacancy](#)
[The Mideast Came To Idaho State. It Wasn’t The Best Fit.](#)

Washington Post:

[Beyond The Catchphrase](#)
[Trump Questions US Role In World](#)
[Obama And Castro Spar, Hail Historic Visit](#)
[Hot On President’s Heels, US Companies Rush In](#)
[Trump Worldview Is A Huge Break From GOP Line](#)

Financial Times:

[Japan Funeral Sector Awaits ‘Peak Death’](#)
[Valeant’s Chief Executive To Step Down](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama Lets Castro Criticize U.S.](#)
[Trump On Track To Win Delegates For Nomination](#)
[Immigrant Surge Linked To Gang Killings](#)
[Gay Rights Group Attacks Use Of Religious Freedom](#)
[Faith Charities Eye Justice Kennedy In Obamacare Fight](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: President Obama Interview-Cuba Visit; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-President Obama Comments; Paris Terror Suspect-Plans; Severe Weather; Apple-iPhone Release; Truck Drivers-Sleeping Risks; Baseball Player-Cuba Return; Cuba-US Hotels.
CBS: President Obama-Cuba Visit; US Cuban Relations-Opinions; Iraq Marine Death-President Obama Comments; Paris Terror Suspect-Plans; 2016 Politics; 2016 Politics-AIPAC; Native American Custody Battle; Jeep Recall-Accidents.
NBC: President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics; 2016 Politics-AIPAC; Paris Terror Suspect-Plans; Los Angeles Airport-Cocaine Bust; Severe Weather; Credit History Lending; Cuba-US Baseball Game.

Network TV At A Glance:

President Obama-Cuba Visit – 20 minutes, 50 seconds
2016 Politics – 11 minutes, 55 seconds
Paris Terror Attacks Suspect-Plans – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: President Obama-Castro Meeting; President Obama-Cuba Visit; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton Discussion; Apple-iPhone Release; Bill Cosby-Sexual Assault Lawsuit.
CBS: FBI Apple Security Debate-Third Party Hacker; President Obama-Cuba Visit; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Political Candidates-AIPAC Conference Remarks; Wall Street.
NPR: FBI Apple Security Debate-Third Party Hacker; President Obama-Cuba Visit; Cuba-US Businesses; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton Discussion; Marijuana Trafficking-Federal Court Disputes; Challenger Engineer Death; Japanese Airports-Airline Computer System Problems.
FOX: FBI Apple Security Debate-Third Party Hacker; President Obama-Castro Meeting; 2016 Politics-Primary Elections; 2016 Politics-AIPAC.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Continues his visit to Cuba, Delivers remarks to the Cuban people; meets with members of civil society; attends the Cuba vs. Tampa Bay Rays exhibition baseball game.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Participates in an event in Cincinnati for Senate candidate former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 18 Mar – 4 Apr

US House: 10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on healthcare choice – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Choice Consolidation: Leveraging Provider Networks to Increase Veteran Access', with testimony from Health Net Federal Services President Billy Maynard; TriWest Healthcare Alliance President and CEO David McIntyre, Jr.; and Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Community Care Baligh Yehia, and Deputy Chief Business Officer for Purchased Care Dr Gene Migliaccio + written submission from The American Legion Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on defense health budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Defense Health Program', with testimony from Defense Health Agency Director Vice Adm. Raquel Bono; U.S. Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Nadja West; U.S. Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Clinton Faison III; and U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger

Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:00 PM House begins debate on Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including beginning consideration of 'H.R. 2745 – Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015', as well as consideration of 'H.R. 4742 – Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act', 'H.R. 4755 – Inspiring the Next Space Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act', 'H.R. 482 – Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2016', 'H.R. 2857 – To facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 4119 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act of 2016', 'H.R. 4472 – Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act', and 'H.R. 4336 – Women Airforce Service Pilot Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act', as amended, under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 a.m. for Morning Hour debate and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business

2:00 PM EPA Administrator McCarthy testifies to House Energy subcommittees joint hearing on FY'17 budget – Energy and Power Subcommittee and Environment and the Economy Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2017 EPA Budget', with testimony from Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

9:00 AM EPA Administrator McCarthy testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Environmental Protection Agency’, with testimony from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and Acting CFO David Bloom Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Lew testifies to House committee on the international finance system – Annual hearing on ‘The State of the International Financial System’, with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on health insurance tax credit – Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on ‘Lip Service but Little Else: Failure of the Small Business Health Insurance Tax Credit’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues James McTigue, Jr.; Buffalo Supply Executive Chairman Harold Jackson (on behalf of U.S. Chamber of Commerce); and NFIB Research Foundation Director of Research & Policy Analysis Holly Wade Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Moniz testifies to House committee hearing on FY’17 budget – Hearing on ‘An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the Department of Energy for Fiscal Year 2017’, with testimony from Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Social Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Social Security and Public Servants: Ensuring Equal Treatment’ Location: Rm B-318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Oversight Committee hearing on the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic – Hearing on ‘America’s Heroin and Opioid Abuse Epidemic’, with testimony from Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli; Drug Enforcement Administration Deputy Assistant Administrator for Diversion Control Lou Milione; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Acting Administrator Kana Enomoto; Baltimore City Health Department Commissioner Leana Wen; and Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Education Secretary King testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies ‘Budget Hearing – Department of Education’, with testimony from Secretary of Education John King Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on cyber insurance in risk management – Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Role of Cyber Insurance in Risk Management’, with testimony from Marsh Finpro Senior Vice President for Network Security and Data Privacy Matthew McCabe; North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm; Health Information Trust Alliance CEO Daniel Nutkis; and Ark Network Security Solutions Chief Strategy Officer Tom Finan Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on USFS budget – Federal Lands Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service in the President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Proposal’, with testimony from U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Hearing on ‘Strengthening Education Research and Privacy Protections to Better Serve Students’ Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM Defense Secretary Carter testifies to House Armed Services Committee on FY’17 budget – Hearing on ‘The Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense’,

with testimony from Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.amedservices.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 4771, the HEALTH Act of 2016’ and ‘H.R. 4676, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2016’ Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on FCC oversight – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission’, with testimony from FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, and Commissioners Mignon Clyburn, Michael O’Rielly, Ajit Pai, and Jessica Rosenworcel Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:45 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on ‘Women Fighting for Peace’ – Hearing on ‘Women Fighting for Peace: Lessons for Today’s Conflicts’, with testimony from World Bank Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict and Violence Betty Bigombe; Ulster University Transitional Justice Institute Professor of Women’s Studies Monica McWilliams; National Defense University Regional and Analytical Studies Department Chair Dr Hassan Abbas; and Institute for Inclusive Security Director Jacqueline O’Neill Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

11:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on Indian Country budget – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘The President’s Fiscal Year 2017 Funding Priorities and Impacts on Indian Country and Insular Areas’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Lawrence Roberts, and Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina; Department of the Interior Special Trustee for American Indians G. Logan; and Indian Health Service Principal Deputy Director Mary Smith Location: Rm 1334, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

11:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the SEC budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Securities and Exchange Commission’, with testimony from SEC Chair Mary Jo White Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:15 AM Bipartisan Reps. Miller and Dingell welcome ‘Original Rosies’ to Washington, DC – Bipartisan Reps. Candice Miller and Debbie Dingell welcome an Honor Flight of original ‘Rosie the Riveters’ – women who worked the factories during World War II – to Washington, DC, as part of Women’s History Month. Agenda includes group photo on the U.S. Capitol front steps (11:15 AM EDT), appreciation luncheon with Members of Congress at the Library of Congress (12:00 PM EDT), visit to the National WWII Memorial (1:45 PM EDT), visit to the Women in Military Memorial (2:50 PM EDT), and visit to Arlington National Cemetery (3:40 PM EDT) * Honor Flights sponsored by Ford Motor Company Location: Washington, DC debbiedingell.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/RepDebDingell>

12:30 PM CANCELED: Bipartisan Reps. Rick Nolan and Walter Jones announce effort to overturn Citizens United – CANCELED: Democratic Rep. Rick Nolan and Republican Rep. Walter Jones announce a joint bipartisan effort to overturn Citizens United through their ‘We the People Amendment’, and discuss the ‘urgency of getting money out of politics and the damaging effect this money has on today’s political climate’. Reps. Nolan and Jones are joined by Moved to Amend and other organizations Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://nolan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/usrepublicnolan>

1:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve budget – Defense Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – National Guard and Reserve’, with testimony from National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Frank Grass; Army National Guard Director Maj. Gen. Timothy Kadavy; Air National Guard Acting Director Maj. Gen. Brian Neal; and U.S. Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley Location: H-140, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on FWS, NOAA, USBR, and PMAs – Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Examining the Missions and Impacts of the

President's Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations', with testimony from FWS Deputy Director Jim Kurth; USBR Commissioner Estevan Lopez; Western Area Power Administration Administrator Mark Gabriel; Bonneville Power Administration COO Claudia Andrews; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Assistant Administrator Eileen Sobock Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on Health IT – Information Technology Subcommittee and Healthcare, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Advancing Health Information Technology', with testimony from U.S. National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Dr Karen DeSalvo; Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition Director Jessica Rich; Intel Healthcare and Life Sciences Federal Managing Director Matthew Quinn; Healthcare Leadership Council Executive Committee Member Neil DeCrescenzo; and National Partnership for Women & Families Director of Health IT Policy and Programs Mark Savage Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on budget priorities for South Asia – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on 'FY 2017 Budget Priorities for South Asia: Recovery, Development, and Engagement', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal; and USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia Jonathan Stivers Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Science and Technology subcommittee hearing on NSF budget – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Science Foundation for Fiscal Year 2017', with testimony from NSF Director France Cordova; and National Science Board Chairman Dr Dan Arvizu Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on housing in America – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Housing in America: Government Regulations and the High Cost of Housing', with testimony from Holland Partner Group Chairman and CEO Clyde Holland (on behalf of National Multifamily Housing Council, and National Apartment Association); American Homestar Corporation COO Jayar Daily (on behalf of Manufactured Housing Institute); New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Vicki Been; MacDonald Companies CEO Granger MacDonald (on behalf of National Association of Home Builders); and University of Texas at Austin School of Law Professor A. Mechele Dickerson Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on logistics and sealift force – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Logistics and Sealift Force Requirements', with testimony from Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Mobility/Combat Logistics Division Director F. Scott DiLisio; Maritime Administration Administrator Paul Jaenichen, Sr.; and U.S. Transportation Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Lyons Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCREpublicans>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on border security in Latin America and the Caribbean – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on 'Potential Terrorist Threats: Border Security Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Juan Gonzalez; Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for International Affairs and Department of Homeland Security Chief Diplomatic Officer Alan Bersin; and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Director for International Operations Lev Kubiak Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'A Victims-Centered Trafficking in Persons Report' – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Get It Right This Time: A Victims-Centered Trafficking in Persons Report', with testimony from Freedom House President Mark Lagon; Fortify Rights Executive Director Matthew Smith; and NKinUSA President Jinhye Jo Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Fundamental Tax Reform Proposals' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Hezbollah – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Hezbollah's Growing Threat Against U.S. National Security Interests in the Middle East', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Research Fellow Tony Badran; and Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service Security Studies Program Professor Dr Daniel Byman Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACRepublicans>

Tuesday, Mar. 22 3:30 PM Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture closed hearing on 'Ongoing Intelligence Activities' Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on IT and cyber programs – Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2017 Information Technology and Cyber Programs: Foundations for a Secure Warfighting Network', with testimony from Department of Defense CIO Terry Halvorsen, and Deputy Chief Management Officer Peter Levine Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>

Other: 7:00 AM Airport Minority Advisory Council annual Economic Opportunity and Policy Forum – Airport Minority Advisory Council 22nd Annual Economic Opportunity and Policy Forum, hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and themed 'Regional Growth through Collective Vision and Action'. Speakers include Deputy Secretary of Transportation Victor Mendez and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority President and CEO John Potter Location: Renaissance DC Downtown Hotel, Washington, DC <http://amac-org.com/> https://twitter.com/AMAC_ORG

10:30 AM Dem Rep. Terri Sewell introduces bill to designate Birmingham, AL's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park – Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell introduces bill to designate Birmingham, AL's Historic Civil Rights District as a National Park via NPC news conference with Birmingham Mayor William Bell, National Trust for Historic Preservation Vice President of Government Relations and Policy Tom Cassidy, and National Parks Conservation Association President and CEO Theresa Pierno Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.birminghamal.gov

4:00 PM ITI 'Tech & the Global Economy' discussion with U.S., EU, and Japanese govt officials – Information Technology Industry Council hosts 'Tech & the Global Economy: Road to the #G20' panel discussion, with Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Holleyman, European Union Deputy Chief of Mission Caroline Vicini, and Embassy of Japan Economic Affairs Minister Kanji Yamanouchi discussing how G20 countries can use China's host year to provide global leadership on information and communications technology policy Location: ITI, 1101 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.itic.org/> https://twitter.com/iti_techtweets #ITIG20

8:00 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce Annual Aviation Summit – 15th Annual Aviation Summit, 'Fascination of Flight', presented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Brings together a wide range of leaders and experts to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the aviation and space industries. Speakers include NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis Francis Taylor, former CIA Director / former National Security Agency Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden, Airlines for America (A4A) President and CEO Nick Calio, American Airlines Group Chairman and CEO W. Douglas Parker, Airbus Group Chairman and CEO Allan McArtor, JetBlue Airways President and CEO Robin Hayes, former The Boeing Company Chairman W. James McNemey, Jr., and USCC President and CEO Thomas Donohue and Of Counsel Carol Hallett Location: Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/aviation-summit> <https://twitter.com/uschamber>

8:00 AM American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference concludes – American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy Conference concludes – 'preeminent annual gathering of the pro-Israel community'. Speakers at today's morning session (8:00 AM EDT) include Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu and Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez * Speakers on previous days included Vice President Joe Biden, 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, along with numerous Members of Congress Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC www.policyconference.org <https://twitter.com/AIPAC> #PC16

8:45 AM GOP Rep. Mike Pompeo speaks at Hudson Institute event on 'America's shale revolution' – Hudson Institute hosts 'A New Global Energy Order?: The Geopolitics of America's Shale Revolution', examining how U.S. oil and natural gas exports have reshaped the balance of global energy power. Speakers include Republican Rep. Mike Pompeo, Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow Mark Mills, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Arthur Herman and Research Fellow Hannah Thobum, CSIS Energy and National Security Program Senior Fellow Edward Chow, Georgetown University Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies Adjunct Professor Brenda Shaffer, analytica President and Chief Analyst Nikos Tsafos, Institute for the Analysis of Global Security Co-Director Anne Korin, SAIS Center for Canadian Studies Senior Research Professor and Director Christopher Sands, and Scotiabank Financial Markets Economist Dov Zigler Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

2:00 PM Acting DEA Administrator Rosenberg testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Drug Enforcement Administration', with testimony from DEA Acting Administrator Chuck Rosenberg Location: H-309, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, the big story is President Obama's historic visit to Cuba that's going on right now. I saw that after landing yesterday, Obama immediately tweeted out, 'What's up, Cuba?' And Cubans opened up a window and yelled, 'We don't have the Internet! It's like 1955 here!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Donald Trump tweeted that Raul Castro disrespected the President by not greeting him at the airport. Seriously? Our countries have been enemies for 60 years. I can't even get my best friend to pick me up at the airport."

Jimmy Fallon: "Mitt Romney announced on Facebook that he will vote for Ted Cruz over Donald Trump in tomorrow's Utah caucus because he doesn't believe John Kasich can actually win. And if there's one thing Romney's an expert on, it's not winning."

Jimmy Fallon: "A lot of people actually think John Kasich would make a good pick for vice president. But Kasich said in an interview yesterday that he will not be vice president under any circumstances. When he heard that, Joe Biden was like, 'Seriously? I did it for a \$20 gift card to GameStop.'"

Seth Meyers: "A new study shows Donald Trump speaks with the poorest grammar of any presidential candidate. Trump says, 'It's actually the poorest.'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump announced over the weekend that he will release a list of judges that he would consider appointing to the Supreme Court if he's elected president. Though, you can get a sneak peek at the list by checking out TV Guide."

Seth Meyers: "Democratic National Committee head Debbie Wasserman Schultz today denied accusations that she is taking sides in the primary election season, and said, quote, 'There is no shred of evidence to suggest I'm favoring Hillary Clinton over Bernie Socialist, I mean Bernie Sanders, my apologies.'"

Seth Meyers: "Bernie Sanders this weekend gave a speech at the Mexican border. Actually, he was in Vermont, but they could hear him at the Mexican border."

Seth Meyers: "Bernie Sanders' campaign has confirmed that he will not speak at a major pro-Israel lobbying group conference this week, making him the only presidential candidate to skip it. And if any candidate can get away with that, it's Bernie from Brooklyn. Look at him. If Israel were a person, that's what it would look like."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 6, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Oct 6, 2015 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

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DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Touts Partnership At Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell To Visit With Oklahoma Indian Nations.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Supports TPP Agreement.](#)
- + [US Announces Plans To Combat Illegal Fishing, Protect Oceans.](#)
- + [Tribes Push For Bears Ears National Monument.](#)
- + [Researcher Finds Way To Fight Cheatgrass.](#)
- + [Hawaii Secessionists Demand New Name For Honolulu's McKinley High School.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Launches GRID Alternatives Tribal Solarthon.](#)
- + [Expiration Of LWCF Criticized.](#)
- + [President Obama Urged To Establish Mojave Trails National Monuments.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Tribe Sues Over BIE Restructuring.](#)
- + [BIA Says Complaint By Tribe Member Is Premature.](#)
- + [Trump Says Washington Football Team Should Keep Their Name.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Central Arizona Project Working To Avoid Water Shortage.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Interior Opposes Native American Energy Act.](#)
- + [BLM Proposes To Update Rules And Fees On Oil And Gas.](#)
- + [Murray Suing Over FOIA Request.](#)
- + [Green Group Study: Gas Producers Benefit From BLM Subsidies.](#)
- + [WSJournal Blasts EPA's Rejection Of Pebble Mine Project.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [DOJ Announces Record \\$20.8 Billion Settlement With BP Over Gulf Oil Spill.](#)
- + [Despite Shell's Departure, Obama Administration Still Plans To Issue Arctic Drilling Regulations.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Director Kornze Unveils New Interactive Mountain Bike Maps At Outerbike 2015.](#)
- + [BLM Decision Complicates Cadiz Plan To Sell Mojave Groundwater.](#)
- + [Environmentalists Halt Grazing On Canyons Of The Ancients National Monument.](#)
- + [Plan To Limit Grazing Triggers Backlash In Utah.](#)
- + [BLM Rangers Find Two Marijuana Grows In Colorado.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Sage Grouse Decision Reflects Shifting Approach To Saving Endangered Species.
- + FWS Releases Rare Ferrets At Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.
- + FWS Proposes Protections For Black Pinesnakes, Mussels.
- + FWS Says Desert Tortoise No Longer Candidate For Protection.
- + FWS Propose Downgrading Protection For Columbian Whitetailed Deer.
- + Tribes Continue Push To Manage, Operate National Bison Range.
- + Survey Finds FWS Scientists Concerned About Political Meddling In Wildlife Decisions.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Director Jarvis To Visit ULM.
- + National Park Foundation Unveils Ad Campaign.
- + NPS Under Pressure To Rename Washington's "Coon Lake".
- + NPS Restoring Painting Of Lincoln Assassination.
- + Zion National Park Investigates Circumstances Of Flooding Deaths.
- + Flash Flooding Closes Death Valley Roads.
- + Shenandoah National Park Considers Using Beetles To Fight Destructive Insect.
- + NPS Approves Yellowstone Trail And Overlook Improvements.
- + Python Challenge 2016 Won't Be Held Everglades National Park.
- + Alcatraz Island Lighthouse Rehabilitation Planned.
- + Yellowstone National Park Sets Record Year For Visitation.
- + Volunteers Recognized With Awards.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS, Sioux Falls Surveying Groundwater.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Media Analyses: Pending Hill Debate, TPP Deal A "Legacy-Making" Win For Obama.
- + Obama Will Meet With Shooting Victims' Families In Oregon Friday.
- + Citing McCarthy Remarks, Clinton Calls Benghazi Panel "Political Partisan Committee."

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS PARTNERSHIP AT WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION.

The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "headlined the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday, marveling at the local partnership that developed it and persevered to win the site national park status." She said, "From this point forward, Waco will be known for its mammoths, which it should be known for, and for its community stewardship and philanthropy that has been so well demonstrated." Jewell added, "I haven't ever been to an event like this where the community pulled together and recognized that the future is about partnerships. It's not about the federal government coming in and deciding everything and paying for everything." Jewell "joined former First Lady Laura Bush at the event, along with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, city and state elected officials, former U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, and current U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-College Station."

The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) editorializes that while Jewell and Jarvis “touted the prehistoric story of the site — the almost human behavior of a nursery herd of Columbian mammoths caught in a flood or mudslide, with some apparently trying to save their babies — they also savored the story of commitment and homegrown ingenuity by local folks who recognized the treasure in their midst and worked in unison to preserve and champion it.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXXV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 30K), [KWTV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 85K), and [KCEN-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 98K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT WITH OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATIONS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 344K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “planning to visit with leaders of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in Oklahoma to participate in a ceremonial signing of an agreement over tribal lands.” Jewell will “visit Durant on Tuesday to recognize the settlement of a nine-year lawsuit alleging the federal government mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands in southeastern and south-central Oklahoma.” The article notes that “the case had been scheduled to go to trial in July, but all sides entered into a settlement agreement approved by a federal judge last month in which the tribal nations agreed to receive a cash payment of \$186 million.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXII-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 46K), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (10/6, 81K), and [KTEN-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SUPPORTS TPP AGREEMENT. [Grist](#) (10/6, 6K) reports that “last night, the United States and 11 other countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore) finished drawing up what is now the largest trade agreement in history — covering 40 percent of the world’s economy.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “posted a photo of a cute elephant family on Twitter this morning with this message: Our kids should have a chance to see elephants & rhinos roaming the wild; trade deal can help that happen.”

US ANNOUNCES PLANS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FISHING, PROTECT OCEANS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Urbina, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the Administration on Monday announced plans to “step up the fight against illegal fishing, pollution and other crimes at sea,” including the creation of two new national marine sanctuaries – one in Maryland and the other in Lake Michigan. According to Administration officials, they also plan to “expand the use of satellites that track illegal activity.” Stressing the “urgency of the crisis,” Secretary of State Kerry told an international conference in Chile “that the sea was acidifying 10 times faster than at any other point in history, and that one-third of the world’s fish stocks were overexploited.”

[AFP](#) (10/6, Clark) quotes Kerry as saying, “The problem is there are people fishing illegally, unregulated, vast areas of the ocean where people use fishing methods that have been prohibited.”

[McClatchy](#) (10/6, Adams, 28K) reports that in a video message to conference participants, the President launched a program called “Sea Scout,” which is “designed to increase cooperation among nations seeking to identify and prosecute illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing around the globe.” The [AP](#) (10/6) reports Obama also recalled his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia and said he always maintained “a special love for the ocean,” and “said he would seek to protect more American waters in the coming months.” The AP notes that Chile “made its own ambitious declaration, cordoning off a vast expanse of the South Pacific Ocean” near Easter Island. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Wroughton, Slattery) reports Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said the protected area would include some 3,800 km (2,361 miles) in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

According to the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Harvey, 6.76M), the two areas designated US sanctuaries “were nominated...last year after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reopened the public nomination process for the first time in 20 years.”

TRIBES PUSH FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/5, 32K) reports that “five Four Corners-area tribes have united to propose a 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument that would be the first truly collaborative land management effort between Native Americans and the federal government.” According to the article, “the Coalition is minting a blueprint for a degree of co-management that has never been tried before.” The plan “embodies true government-to-government relations and truly collaborative decision-making on all aspects of running a protected mass of land.”

RESEARCHER FINDS WAY TO FIGHT CHEATGRASS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the “profusion” of cheatgrass is “a big reason today’s Western fires burn more land, more frequently and with more ferocity than in the past, scientists say.” Now, “after more than a half-

century of largely failed efforts to thwart the Sherman's march of cheatgrass, a researcher may have a powerful new weapon against it." Ann Kennedy, a soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, has "discovered naturally occurring soil bacteria that inhibit the growth of the weed's deep root system, its competitive advantage, even as those bacteria leave native plants untouched."

HAWAII SECESSIONISTS DEMAND NEW NAME FOR HONOLULU'S MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/6, Owens, 375K) reports that "now that President Barack Obama has decided to call Mount McKinley by the name Denali instead, NBC News has seen fit to call attention to an obscure MoveOn.org petition seeking to change the name of President William McKinley High School in Honolulu, Hawaii." The creator of the petition, Aoloa Patao, says that "the name of McKinley High must be changed because it is a sad reminder of 'the prolonged illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States.'" The article notes that "the online petition to rename McKinley High hosted by Moveon.org — a progressive advocacy group and political action committee — has garnered 1,080 signatures as of early Monday morning."

Additional coverage of the Denali name change was provided by the [National Review](#) (10/6, 504K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARATHON. Additional coverage of the GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solarathon was provided by the [East Hampton \(NY\) Press](#) (10/6, 21K).

EXPIRATION OF LWCF CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/6, Simon, Arce, 471K), Camilla Simon and Maite Arce, co-chairs of the Latino Conservation Alliance, criticizes Congress for allowing the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. They note that "the LWCF has also been an important economic driver supporting jobs and the revitalization of local communities." They are also "concerned about the playgrounds, recreation centers, ball fields, and state park projects for future generations that hang in the balance."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/5, 41K) and the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/6, 54K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO ESTABLISH MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENTS. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/5, 99K), Margit Chiriaco Rusche, vice president and founder of the General Patton Museum, writes that "the lands in the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument hold a significant piece of our nation's World War II history, which is still marked on these desert landscapes." Rusche wants "to protect the stories and artifacts in this unique expanse of California desert I call home so that we can share this piece of our heritage." She encourages "President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to establish the Mojave Trails National Monuments."

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBE SUES OVER BIE RESTRUCTURING. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that "the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on Friday sued the U.S. Department of the Interior over a planned restructuring of the Bureau of Indian Education, claiming the proposal violates a settlement agreement and will disrupt essential education services provided to Native American schools." The South Dakota tribe claimed that "the BIE decided to reduce the number of educational line offices under its Blueprint for Reform without 'meaningfully consulting' with affected tribes and failed to secure congressional appropriations or authorization."

BIA SAYS COMPLAINT BY TRIBE MEMBER IS PREMATURE. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that the BIA "told a federal court Friday that a Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma member who is trying to revive her petition to change the tribe's constitution brought her suit prematurely, since her administrative appeal challenging the BIA's denial of the petition is still being considered." According to the article, "the government told an Oklahoma federal court that it lacks jurisdiction to consider Anita Onco Johnson's complaint until the Interior Board of Indian Appeals finishes evaluating her appeal."

TRUMP SAYS WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM SHOULD KEEP THEIR NAME. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, Rushing, 5.59M) reports that "Donald Trump and Jeb Bush have agreed on precious little throughout the 2016 Republican presidential primary race, but on this they agree: The Washington Redskins team name should stay where it is." Trump on Monday said that "he disagreed with calls for the removal and retirement of the team name, as the former Florida governor had said last week on a new SiriusXM show intended to combine sports with politics." Trump said "any controversy over the team name was simply an issue of political correctness run amok."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT WORKING TO AVOID WATER SHORTAGE. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/5, 1.12M), Lisa Atkins, president of the Central Arizona Project Board of Directors, writes that the Central Arizona Project has "stored enough water underground to fill Yankee Stadium more than 500 times." According to Atkins, "anticipating a shortage, CAP and the Arizona Department of Water Resources is now working with others to store an additional 740,000 acre-feet of new water in Lake Mead." She argues that "storing extra water in Lake Mead is critical in our efforts to avert a potential shortage in 2017."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR OPPOSES NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/6, 65K) reports that "House Democrats are expected to oppose legislation this week that would remove regulatory burdens for energy production on Native American land that tribes say have cost them tens of millions of dollars." The Native American Energy Act would "vest more regulatory authority over tribal energy production with the tribes themselves, rather federal regulators that have recently sought more stringent regulations on oil and gas production on federal land." The article notes that "among its provisions is language that would exempt tribal land from new Interior Department regulations on hydraulic fracturing, an innovative oil and gas extraction technique commonly known as fracking." Interior "opposes the bill in part due to that language."

BLM PROPOSES TO UPDATE RULES AND FEES ON OIL AND GAS. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (10/5, 44K) reports that the BLM has announced that it is updating the rules and fees governing oil and natural gas extraction in an effort to catch up to advances in technology used by the energy industries." Last week, the BLM announced a proposed rule updating and replacing its regulations, which have not been revised since 1989, related to the measurement of oil produced from federal and Indian onshore leases." The article notes that "the proposed rule would replace Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 4 (Order 4), which sets minimum standards for the measurement of oil extracted from public lands."

MURRAY SUING OVER FOIA REQUEST. The [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (10/6, 55K) reports that "Murray Energy Corp. is suing the federal government over alleged failure to comply with the Freedom of Information Act." The firm says the Interior Department and the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement "have completely ignored" its "request for information about a new rule opponents have said will be detrimental to underground coal mines such as those the firm operates in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Utah." According to the article, "in revealing its lawsuit, Murray stated that it filed an FOIA request on Sept. 4, seeking information about the OSMRE's Stream Protection Rule."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Morgantown \(WV\) Dominion Post](#) (10/6, 52K), [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K), [WAJR-AM Morgantown \(WV\)](#) Morgantown, WV (10/6), and [WBKO-TV Bowling Green \(KY\)](#) Bowling Green, KY (10/6, 45K).

GREEN GROUP STUDY: GAS PRODUCERS BENEFIT FROM BLM SUBSIDIES. [Inside Climate News](#) (10/6, McKenna) reports that according to a new study by Friends of the Earth, natural gas producers in North Dakota essentially receive a hidden federal subsidy worth tens of millions of dollars from "royalty-free flaring of natural gas from wells on public and tribal lands." The article said the group's study shows that over a six year period, "BLM subsidized the burning of \$524 million of natural gas by oil and gas companies operating on public and tribal lands in North Dakota." Continental Resources, however, criticized the research, with Jeff Hume, the company's vice chairman of strategic growth initiatives, saying the group had "obtained flare volume reports which are accurate, [but] what they don't realize is the majority of gas that is reported as flared is inert gas, not hydrocarbons." BLM spokesman Bradford Purdy also challenged the group's claims, "saying producers that wish to flare must prove that capturing the gas would lead to a premature abandonment of recoverable oil reserves. Companies must also submit a plan that eliminates flaring within one year."

WSJOURNAL BLASTS EPA'S REJECTION OF PEBBLE MINE PROJECT. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA's rejection of Alaska's proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency's inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

Offshore Energy Development:

DOJ ANNOUNCES RECORD \$20.8 BILLION SETTLEMENT WITH BP OVER GULF OIL SPILL. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Johnson, 5.23M) reports that the Justice Department announced a record \$20.8 billion settlement on Monday “with British energy giant BP Monday, more than five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill stained more than 1,300 miles of the Gulf of Mexico’s coastline in the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history.” Attorney General Loretta Lynch said “the resolution marks the largest settlement against a single entity in U.S. history and will finance an unprecedented project to restore plant and wildlife habitats that were fouled by the spill of 3 million barrels of oil into the Gulf.” BP has agreed to pay a \$5.5 billion civil penalty, “the largest such penalty in the history of environmental law, and \$7.1 billion in damage claims under the Oil Pollution Act.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the final settlement of \$20.8 billion raises the total from the initial \$18.7 billion settlement announced in July, and notes that “at either amount, it is the largest environmental settlement – and the largest civil settlement with any single entity – in the nation’s history.” Lynch called the final settlement “a major step forward in our effort to deliver justice to the Gulf region in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy – the largest environmental disaster our nation has ever endured.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that “the highlights of the settlement include \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages, including \$1 billion BP agreed to pay earlier, \$5.5 billion plus interest for Clean Water Act penalties; and \$5.9 billion under a separate agreement to cover state and local government claims.” In July, “when the outlines of the deal were announced, BP put the cost of the settlement at \$18.7 billion,” and Attorney General Lynch “said the government was counting some coastline restoration money that BP did not count.” The Post notes that the settlement “does not, however, include \$4 billion BP agreed to pay earlier to settle criminal charges or the billions more it has spent cleaning up the oil spill and settling separate civil claims with private individuals.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) adds that a number of civil suits against BP remain pending, including a securities fraud trial set for January in which investors who bought BP shares claim that the company underestimated how much oil was spilled into the Gulf of Mexico, an estimate used to determine the fines BP would later pay.

The [AP](#) (10/5, Tucker) reports that the settlement, “once approved by a judge, would resolve all civil claims against BP and end five years of legal fighting over a 134-million gallon spill that affected 1,300 miles of shoreline,” and also “would bind the company to a massive cleanup project in the Gulf Coast area aimed at restoring wildlife, habitat and water quality. ‘BP is receiving the punishment it deserves, while also providing critical compensation for the injuries that it caused to the environment and the economy of the Gulf region,’” Lynch said.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, Katakey, 2.66M) reports that the settlement “takes BP’s total budget for the spill to more than \$54 billion, five years after an explosion at the Macondo well polluted the Gulf of Mexico and forced the company to shed more than third of its market value and assets to pay for the accident.” [AFP](#) (10/5, Oberman) reports that Lynch said “she hopes the settlement will serve as a warning to companies about the need to operate ‘in as safe a manner as possible.’”

The [Hill](#) (10/5, Henry, 471K) reports that BP “will pay \$4.9 million to Gulf Coast states affected by the spill, as well as \$1 billion to local communities there.” The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (10/5, 769K) reports that Florida “stands to receive \$2 billion for economic damages, the most of any Gulf Coast state, and \$680 million for restoration projects.” The state “is also in line for \$572 million as part of the 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act, with that figure potentially growing to \$1.25 billion.”

In his “The Economic Hub” column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, 4.07M), Michael Hiltzik writes that “the estimate that more than \$15 billion of the final settlement will be tax deductible sounds correct to University of Michigan law professor David Uhlmann, former chief of the Justice Department’s environmental crimes section. Restitution “on damage claims and restoration of the damaged environment have long been designated by the IRS as deductible charges. ‘That makes sense,’ he told me. ‘They’re business expenses.’”

The [Financial Times](#) (10/5, Chon, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Wolfgang,

344K), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/6, Alpert, 718K), [Reuters](#) (10/5, Heavey, Rucker, Stephenson) and [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/5, Eaton, 7K) also report.

NOAA To Hold Public Meetings On BP Oil Spill Restoration Plan. The [AP](#) (10/6) reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released an \$8.8 billion plan to restore Gulf of Mexico areas damaged by the BP oil spill. Public meetings seeking comment “are scheduled across the Gulf and in Washington for public comment on the 690-page plan,” the AP reports.

DESPITE SHELL’S DEPARTURE, OBAMA ADMINISTRATION STILL PLANS TO ISSUE ARCTIC DRILLING REGULATIONS. The [Hill](#) (10/5, Cama, 471K) reported that the Obama Administration “still plans to issue regulations for oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean despite Royal Dutch Shell’s decision to abandon its drilling efforts ‘for the foreseeable future.’” Brian Salemo, director of the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, “said regulators are moving forward with their rules, even though drilling is not likely to return to the Arctic for years, or even decades.” The agency “wants to require drillers to keep a backup rig nearby to drill relief wells for blowouts, be able to contain spills through mechanical means and restrict the drilling season based on ice cover, among other provisions.” The oil industry and Republicans “have sharply criticized the proposal as overly prescriptive, expensive and unnecessary, while Democrats and environmentalists say the rules don’t go nearly far enough to prevent oil spills.”

Additional coverage of Shell’s exit was provided by [Platts](#) (10/6, 1K) and [Knowledge@Wharton](#) (10/5, 4K).

Moody’s: Shell’s Departure Could Have Negative Impact On Alaska’s Economy. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Carroll) reported that in a note released on Monday, Moody’s said that Shell’s departure from its Arctic oil exploration could have a negative impact on Alaska’s economy. Shell’s decision is considered credit negative for Alaska, despite the project occurring in federal waters, because it would have had indirect benefits to Alaska’s economy, including job generation and improving the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System’s economic viability.

Seattle Times Endorses Yoshino For Port of Seattle Commission Position. In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (10/5, 962K) endorsed Marion Yoshino for Port of Seattle Commission Position 5. While presenting its reasons for the endorsement, the Times wrote that while both candidates “say the Port should have been more transparent regarding Shell,” Yoshino “is more pragmatic, suggesting that revenue from today’s oil projects can be used to research and invest in alternatives.”

Commentary. In commentary carried by [The Hill](#) (10/5, Shogan, 471K), Cindy Shogan, executive director of the Alaska Wilderness League, praised Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) for introducing the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act in the House and urged Congress to support the bill. Shogan mentioned Shell’s press release explaining the company’s withdrawal from the Arctic, adding that “what Shell didn’t mention in its statement was the growing opposition to Arctic drilling and the beating the company was taking in the court of public opinion.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE UNVEILS NEW INTERACTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE MAPS AT OUTERBIKE 2015. [KCSG-TV](#) St. George, UT (10/6, 43) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze “attended one of the nation’s most important mountain bike events to introduce a new access tool for trail riders all across the country.” According to the article, “developed by the BLM, in partnership with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and the MTB Project, the mobile-friendly online tool features interactive maps for 20 of the nation’s most popular trails on public lands.” Kornze said, “The BLM is proud to manage some of the world’s best mountain bike trails. This new, mobile-friendly tool will help the public get a glimpse of these amazing places and plan their rides.”

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ PLAN TO SELL MOJAVE GROUNDWATER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, 4.07M) reports that “Cadiz Inc.’s plans to sell Mojave Desert groundwater to Southern California communities have hit a major federal roadblock.” The BLM says “Cadiz cannot use an existing railroad right-of-way for a new water pipeline that would carry supplies from the project’s proposed well field to the Colorado River Aqueduct.” According to the article, “by using the railroad right-of-way, Cadiz had hoped to escape federal environmental review of the 43-mile pipeline, one of the project’s most expensive components.” However, “in a letter to Cadiz on Friday, BLM’s California director informed the company that it needs U.S. approval for a separate pipeline right-of-way over federal land,” and “that would trigger review under federal environmental law,

a potentially lengthy and costly process that could impose new conditions on the project.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/6, 15K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HALT GRAZING ON CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups has forced public land managers to delay a permit for grazing on Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.” According to the article, “the seven groups collectively filed a protest against proposed grazing allotments in the Flodine and Yellow Jacket areas.” They claim “drought condition data is out of date and that grazing doesn’t fit with the monument’s mission to protect ancient ruins.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, 344K) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K).

PLAN TO LIMIT GRAZING TRIGGERS BACKLASH IN UTAH. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “a proposal from the federal government to limit livestock grazing in parts of southern Utah’s Washington County is triggering backlash from local officials.” The proposed plan from the BLM is “intended to restore native vegetation and create habitat for the protected Mojave Desert Tortoise on two national conservation areas in the county.” But “government officials argue the plan unfairly hurts ranchers, and could damage the economy.”

BLM RANGERS FIND TWO MARIJUANA GROWS IN COLORADO. The [AP](#) Salt Lake City (10/6, 494K) reports that “authorities have arrested 10 people after the discovery of two large, unrelated marijuana grows on public land in western Colorado.” The Department of Justice announced Monday that BLM rangers “acting on two separate tips found the grows south of Gateway near the Utah border.” The rangers discovered “more than 1,200 fully mature marijuana plants, 211 kilograms of dried marijuana and a rifle at a site on the Dolores River corridor between Gateway and Naturita on Sept. 15.” Also, “a second illegal grow was discovered nearby on Sept. 30.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Paul, 787K), [KXRM-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/6, Case, 2K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 79K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE DECISION REFLECTS SHIFTING APPROACH TO SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES.

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Goode, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that “to many conservationists,” the Interior Department’s “decision to avoid listing the grouse reflects a larger shift in thinking that is taking hold in academic departments and advocacy circles around the country, even as it stirs controversy.” Some conservationists call “traditional approaches to species conservation have focused on saving individual animals or plants in specific locations” as “too narrow,” and they argue that conservation efforts “must work on a larger scale, focusing not on preserving single species in small islands of wilderness but on large landscapes and entire ecosystems, and the benefits that nature provides to humans.” According to this view, conservation efforts will “be more effective if they accept humans as a part of nature and come to terms with the fact that they have irrevocably altered the landscape.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K).

FWS RELEASES RARE FERRETS AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “rare black-footed ferrets chattered angrily before dashing out of pet carriers and ducking into burrows Monday at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge — a milestone for the highly endangered animals and for the former toxic waste site on the industrial edge of Denver.” The FWS “released 30 ferrets at the site, part of a program to reintroduce them in 12 states where they once thrived, from Montana to Texas.” The article notes that “chemical weapons and pesticides were once manufactured there, but it became a wildlife refuge in 2010 after a \$2.1 billion cleanup.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “This remarkable place shows that nature will recover and will thrive if given a chance.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 6.76M), [NPR](#) (10/5, 1.85M), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradan](#) (10/5, 59K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/6, 962K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Press, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Elliott, 344K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/6, 99K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/6, Elliott, 5.98M), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#)

Denver (10/5, 222K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR BLACK PINESNAKES, MUSSELS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is “moving forward with new protections for black pinesnakes.” The service is “listing the black pinesnake, which is endemic to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as a threatened species.” The agency is also “proposing to protect certain freshwater mussels.” The agency “proposed Monday listing the Suwannee moccasinshell, which is endemic to Florida and Georgia, as a threatened species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, 2.28M), the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (10/5, 129K), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Mcconnaughey, 344K), and the [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (10/5, 34K).

FWS SAYS DESERT TORTOISE NO LONGER CANDIDATE FOR PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “the Sonoran desert tortoise is not at risk for extinction and will no longer be listed as a candidate for Endangered Species Act protections, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Monday.” The service says “the decision is partly because of the commitments various government agencies have made to protect the animal in Arizona.” Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, “We and our federal and state partners will continue to monitor the tortoises. However the current modeling in science demonstrates that there’s virtually no probability of extinction over the next decade.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (10/6, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5.59M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Astrid Galvan |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Galvan, 344K).

FWS PROPOSE DOWNGRADING PROTECTION FOR COLUMBIAN WHITETAILED DEER. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/6, 20K) reports that “one of the original endangered species – the Columbian white-tailed deer – is slowly making its way toward recovery.” On Tuesday, the FWS “proposed downgrading its protected status from endangered to threatened.” The article notes that “their numbers along the Columbia River were down to around 450 back in 1967 when they joined the bald eagle and California condor in the first group of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act,” and “now there are more than 900 deer in the lower Columbia River area.”

TRIBES CONTINUE PUSH TO MANAGE, OPERATE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (10/6, 19K) reports that “the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes continue to talk with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about another annual funding agreement that would transfer various degrees of management and operation of the National Bison Range to them, one of their attorneys said Thursday.” However, “a group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has opposed CSKT’s efforts at the Bison Range at every turn, saying it opens up 80 percent of the National Wildlife Refuge System and 57 national parks in 19 states to similar agreements with other Indian tribes.”

SURVEY FINDS FWS SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL MEDDLING IN WILDLIFE DECISIONS. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/6, Greenwald, 164K), Noah Greenwald writes that “a survey issued this week by the Union of Concerned Scientists finds that 74 percent of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists reported that consideration of political interests was too high at the agency.” He says that “the survey comes as no surprise” as “we’ve witnessed a score of politically driven decisions by the Fish and Wildlife Service in recent years to deny or weaken protections for endangered species.” He argues that “the Endangered Species Act is clear that decisions about how best to protect wildlife on the verge of extinction must be based solely on the best available science,” but “time and again, political and economic interests worm their way in and influence decisions to the detriment of our most at risk plants and animals.” Greenwald hopes that President Obama will “take this survey to heart – after all, it’s his administration’s own scientists raising the alarm – and use his time left in office to reform the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies being unduly influenced.”

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT ULM. The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star](#) (10/5, 67K) reports that NPS Director Jarvis will “visit ULM on Oct. 6th and attend a variety of local events while sharing the importance of preservation.” Jarvis said, “Leading up to the National Park centennial anniversary in 2016, my visit to Monroe is a great opportunity to invite a new generation of Americans to visit their national parks and historic sites, as well as highlight the relevance of the park system in our nation. The centennial goal of the National Park Service is

to create and connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. I am looking forward to spending time with several classes of students from the area at a local park and Natural History Museum, amplifying the message of the Every Kid in the Park initiative and later speaking with college students and community members, inviting them all to learn, explore and engage with the natural and cultural resources of the park system. The National Park Service has something to offer everyone, in every corner of the country. We want everyone to know that and to benefit from America's public lands."

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION UNVEILS AD CAMPAIGN. [Fast CoCreate](#) (10/6, 100K) reports that "to show Americans that they are personally part of the country's more than 400 national parks, the National Park Foundation and agency Grey New York enlisted the stunning work of body painter Natalie Fletcher." According to the article, "in a new PSA and ad campaign, the official charity of America's national parks shows visitors blending seamlessly into the incredible landscapes of national parks like Zion National Park to Federal Hall National Memorial." The campaign seeks "to be a companion to the 'Find Your Park' movement for the upcoming National Park Service Centennial."

NPS UNDER PRESSURE TO RENAME WASHINGTON'S "COON LAKE". The [Raw Story](#) (10/6, 896K) reports that "the federal government is under pressure to rename a Washington lake for a black prospector instead of the racial slur that likely refers to him." According to the article, "state officials agreed to change the name of Coon Lake and Coon Creek after a Seattle man convinced them the designation was intended as a racial slur against Wilson Howard, who worked claims and lived in the area in the 1890s." The article notes that "the state's board of geographic names officially changed the names to Howard Lake and Howard Creek in 2008, but the National Park Service continues to oppose the changes." NPS officials said "they aren't certain 'coon' referred to a black miner in an almost entirely white community more than 100 years ago — when newspapers regularly used the racial slur in reference to black people."

Additional coverage was provided by [Mic](#) (10/6, 1.5M) and [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (10/6).

NPS RESTORING PAINTING OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Ruane, 6.76M) reports that the NPS is having Carl Bersch's 1865 painting of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln "cleaned and restored for the first time in 35 years." According to Laura Anderson, a NPS museum curator, "the piece, which depicts Lincoln being carried out of Ford's Theatre in Washington after being shot by John Wilkes Booth, is thought to be the only image of the assassination painted by an eyewitness." The painting eventually will be exhibited in the Ford's Theatre complex.

ZION NATIONAL PARK INVESTIGATES CIRCUMSTANCES OF FLOODING DEATHS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that Zion National Park officials are "retracing what led up to the deaths of seven people in a flooded canyon last month before a panel convenes to assess what can be done to keep a growing number of visitors safe when spectacular natural settings turn perilous." According to Zion National Park Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh, "investigators are talking to family members and examining the communications the group made in the hours before they canyon filled with fast-moving water from a powerful storm on Sept. 14." The article notes that "the investigation could lead to changes in the permit system that controls who enters the park's 21 narrow slot canyons, whose unique geological quirks also make them deadly."

FLASH FLOODING CLOSSES DEATH VALLEY ROADS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "authorities say an intense wet rainstorm created flash flooding that closed roads in Death Valley National Park in California." Death Valley National Park spokeswoman Linda Slater said Monday that "rangers toured remote roads and campsites and no injuries were reported after cloudbursts Sunday in the vast park near the Nevada-California state line." The article notes that "all dirt roads in the park remained closed Monday, along with paved roads including Highway 178, or Badwater Road, between Furnace Creek and Shoshone, Dantes View Road, Greenwater Road and Scotty's Castle Road."

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERS USING BEETLES TO FIGHT DESTRUCTIVE INSECT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "predatory beetles could become a new tool in Shenandoah National Park's effort to combat a destructive insect." The park "plans to release predatory beetles at four locations within its boundaries." Public input on the plan will be accepted through Oct. 15.

NPS APPROVES YELLOWSTONE TRAIL AND OVERLOOK IMPROVEMENTS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has "approved a project to repair and improve many of the overlooks and trails located along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park." The NPS "found that the project would not cause any harm to historic and cultural resources in the area." The project will improve overlooks and trails "as well as improve accessibility, pedestrian flow and safety."

PYTHON CHALLENGE 2016 WON'T BE HELD EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (10/5, 651K) reports that "despite earlier reports to the contrary, Python Challenge 2016 will not be coming to Everglades National Park." According to the article, "only a handful of authorized python removal agents will be participating in the park come January 16, when the Python Challenge is set to begin."

ALCATRAZ ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE REHABILITATION PLANNED. The [Inside Bay Area \(CA\)](#) (10/6, 42K) reports that the NPS, "Coast Guard, the United States Lighthouse Society and the Land's End clothing company jointly announced Monday the first step toward restoring the lighthouse" on Alcatraz Island. The article notes that "lighthouse backers commissioned a \$25,000 architectural study to determine the scope and cost of the work – laying the groundwork for a major fundraising campaign to pay for it."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SETS RECORD YEAR FOR VISITATION. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Prevost) reports that Yellowstone National Park has set a new annual visitation record. According to data compiled by the NPS, more than 3.8 million people have visited Yellowstone through the end of September. The figure breaks the previous annual record of 3.6 million visitors set in 2010.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "Sterling Fisher started volunteering at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park when he was only 6 years old." On Friday, Fisher, now 18 year-old was "recognized as the recipient of the National Park Service's Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award." Fisher had "already contributed 300 hours of service to the park by the time he was 16," and "in high school, he organized a junior chapter of Friends of the Smokies whose 20 members have completed more than 400 hours of volunteer service." Also recognized on Friday was "longtime volunteer Tom Harrington." Harrington has "been a park volunteer for 17 years and has contributed more than 20,000 hours of service." He was "selected as the southeast regional winner for the Enduring Service Award."

US Geological Survey:

USGS, SIOUX FALLS SURVEYING GROUNDWATER. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/6, 126K) reports that "the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey this week." Sioux Falls has "contracted with CGG Canada Services to be flying a helicopter over the Big Sioux Aquifer to collect, record and map its geophysical measurements." Officials say "the study will determine groundwater, soil, and sand characteristics to help in the future planning of water access points."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: PENDING HILL DEBATE, TPP DEAL A "LEGACY-MAKING" WIN FOR OBAMA. While much of the reporting on the TPP agreement cautions about a potentially bruising fight ahead on Capitol Hill, media coverage overwhelmingly casts yesterday's announcement as historic, and as a major victory for President Obama. All three network newscasts, however, ignored the story last night.

This morning, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, A1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) refers on its front page to a "potentially legacy-making achievement for...Obama," the "capstone for his foreign policy 'pivot' toward closer relations with fast-growing eastern Asia." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M) similarly states the pact brings the President closer to his "legacy-making goal to expand America's influence in the Asia-Pacific region," and the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports in a front-page piece that the deal "potentially" handed him "a legacy-defining victory late in his presidency."

Along similar lines, [Foreign Policy](#) (10/5, Francis, Hudson, 364K) indicated on its website that the TPP "could become the most significant foreign-policy legacy" of the Obama Administration, while the [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) calls the agreement "the biggest free trade triumph of...Obama's presidency," and the [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) terms it "a major victory on a centerpiece of" his "international agenda."

[AFP](#) (10/6, Handley) reports that "Obama, who made the TPP a priority of his second term," said yesterday that the accord "reflects America's values and gives our workers the fair shot at success they deserve." Added Obama, "When more than 95 percent of our potential customers live outside our borders, we can't let countries like China write the rules of the global economy. ... We should write those rules, opening new markets to American products while setting high standards for protecting workers and preserving our environment."

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) reports that Obama "plans to sell the deal in person Tuesday at a meeting with business leaders who will gather at the Agriculture Department in Washington." Yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack said the agreement "would 'eliminate or significantly reduce tariffs on our products and deter non-science based sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that have put American agriculture at a disadvantage' to other countries." In a statement yesterday, the President said the TPP "levels the playing field for our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers by eliminating more than 18,000 taxes that various countries put on our products," even as it "puts American workers first and will help middle-class families get ahead."

The [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) quotes USTR Froman as saying of the deal, "We think it helps define the rules of the road for the Asia-Pacific region." [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) notes that Froman also said the deal "will 'promote economic growth' and 'support higher paying jobs.'"

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/5, Fredrikson, 455K) said that for the President, "the deal could represent a historic effort to protect not only commerce, but the economy and the environment as well and specifically ensure US competitiveness amid a growing China." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Makinen, 4.07M) notes that China "has been pursuing its own bilateral trade deals with countries including Australia and South Korea," and "is also participating in talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which would link the 10 members of the Assn. of Southeast Asian Nations with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, accounting for about 30% of global gross domestic product."

Ian Bremmer, in an online analysis for [TIME](#) (10/5, 19.55M), indicated that in addition to the US, "all the other countries" involved "are expected to pass it, as well," though "the main remaining question is Canada, where the matter might be decided by an upcoming election." Bremmer concludes that "on balance, this is a good deal for the United States and an important win for the Obama administration."

The debate now moves to the US Congress, where, according to [Politico](#) (10/5, Gass, 942K), the "dysfunction and unpredictable nature of the US political system" mean the pact "could still conceivably unravel." For one thing, "with populism animating the base of both parties, a trade pact is bound to be unpopular with many early primary voters." The [Boston Globe](#) (10/6, Horowitz, 1.1M) sees "no guarantee" Congress "will pass" the agreement, as "Democratic support...has always been weak" and Republicans would have "to have to line up behind Obama, burnishing his legacy in the run-up to the 2016 presidential contest."

As the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes, Obama "has to wait 90 days after agreement before signing the pact, and only then will Congress begin to debate it," and "as a result, a vote on the agreement likely will not happen until well into 2016." The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) also reports that "the vote will come during the presidential primary nominating contests," and notes that "opponents of the deal, including labor unions, environmental groups and liberal Democrats, have pledged to mount a final campaign to block the accord."

More optimistic is the [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/6, Lindenberger, 1.15M), which indicates in an analysis piece that the President "has the upper hand in the negotiations in Congress, as that body has already renewed presidential fast-track negotiation authority," and concludes that "the weight of the momentum, after years of negotiations, will likely be in favor of ratifying the agreement." Congressional approval, however, won't come "without significant opposition." On its website, [The Atlantic](#) (10/5, Berman, 2.69M) reported that "Administration officials sounded confident that Congress would ultimately ratify" the deal it, pointing out that the Administration "would be spending months going over it with lawmakers point by point."

According to [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), "the White House began lobbying Democrats" yesterday. Said press secretary Josh Earnest, "Our goal here is to talk about the benefits of the agreement. ... There are well-known differences of opinion on this and I don't anticipate we are going to persuade every member of Congress." In fact, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Granville, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports, "many Democrats said the president would have to address their concerns over labor and environmental standards and investor protections when he returns to Congress seeking approval of the trade deal."

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Carter, 164K), meanwhile, said that when it comes to the TPP, "Obama has the Senate sewn up," but cautioned that "Congressional Democrats...loathe the agreement" and that yesterday, "Republican leaders didn't exactly celebrate the administration's announcement." [The Hill](#) (10/5, Carney, 471K) noted on its website that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "warned...that Congress will give 'intense scrutiny'" to the deal, and said, "Serious concerns have been raised on a number of key issues." [Roll Call](#) (10/5, Lesniewski, Flemming, 113K) reported that McConnell also said, "In the months ahead, the Senate will review this agreement to determine if it meets the high standards Congress and the American people have demanded."

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Reilly, 164K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Paul Ryan, "who co-sponsored legislation earlier this year to give Obama fast-track authority to expedite trade negotiations," yesterday "were hesitant to praise the agreement." Hatch "expressed concern that the deal squanders a 'historic opportunity to break down trade barriers for American-made products,'" and Ryan "said he is reserving judgment" on the deal until he can further review the agreement." [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cowan, Lawder) quotes Hatch as saying, "I am afraid this deal appears to fall woefully short." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that Hatch also said, "I will carefully scrutinize it to see whether my concerns about rushing into a deal before meeting all US objectives are justified."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes that National Council of Textile Organizations President Augustine Tantillo said yesterday, "Though we are waiting to examine the final details, our briefings at the Atlanta TPP round lead us to believe that US negotiators were able to achieve a well-balanced and reasonable outcome." The AFL-CIO, however, said in a statement, "We ask the Administration to release the text immediately, and urge legislators to exercise great caution in evaluating the TPP."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports that the Sierra Club's Ilana Solomon charged that the Administration "is pursuing policies under extreme secrecy," adding, "The entire TPP has been negotiated behind closed doors. ... The lack of dialogue is abysmal." The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Nixon, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), however, says "environmentalists praised wildlife protections included in the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal announced Monday, calling them groundbreaking." The Times quotes the World Wildlife Fund's David McCauley as saying, "The provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership go beyond what we have seen in other trade agreements."

The [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#) (10/5, Williams, Subscription Publication, 118K) reports that Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed came out in favor of the agreement, while UPS CEO David Abney called it "a historic agreement that represents real market opportunities for US companies of all sizes and a chance to compete on a more level playing field."

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Davidson, 5.23M) reports that the deal "should boost the US economy and lower consumer prices on some imports," according to experts such as "Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M), meanwhile, reports that "private studies suggest that the Pacific accord would add only modestly to US economic growth and have little overall effect on jobs," but "would have a proportionately larger effect in California." [McClatchy](#) (10/5, Hall, 28K) similarly indicates that "the immediate trade benefits are likely to fall largely on the West Coast because of geography and existing rail and port connections." However, "the agreement has broader importance because it encompasses countries that together account for about 40 percent of the global economy."

Sanders Blasts "Disastrous" TPP Amid Media Speculation About Clinton's Stance. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Needham, 471K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders yesterday called the pact "disastrous," and declared himself "disappointed but not surprised" by it. Added Sanders, "Wall Street and other big corporations have won again." The [New York Observer](#) (10/5, Barkan, 203K) further quotes Sanders as saying, "It is time for the rest of us to stop letting multi-national corporations rig the system to pad their profits at our expense." [Politico](#) (10/5, Strauss, 942K) also notes Sanders' comments.

According to [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M), "Sanders' opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership could put political pressure on Hillary Clinton." In the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, 3.75M), Cameron Joseph writes, "It will be interesting to see what stance...Clinton takes on the deal." Clinton "originally praised early versions as the 'gold standard' of trade agreements but has been more critical of it since she became a candidate – and it became an issue on the campaign trail." [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), meanwhile, indicated that "a key determining factor in whether TPP does pass Congress is likely to be...Clinton."

[Politico](#) (10/5, Guida, 942K) reports that "if Clinton supports the pact, she is sure to anger her party's base, especially labor and environmental groups." However, "opposing the deal is also a problem because it opens her to charges of flip-flopping."

Many Industries Back Deal, But Some Point To Shortcomings. In an analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A2, Kesmodel, Mauldin, Rockoff, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) breaks down industries seen as winning and potentially losing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. On the winning side are agriculture, aerospace, and apparel, while the pharma and tobacco industries pointed to shortfalls in the agreement. The Journal says that the agriculture sector strongly backs the deal, as do some industry groups such as the National Association of

Manufacturers. Boeing and Intel also voiced support. Meanwhile, Ford raised concerns about currency manipulation, and the pharmaceutical trade group PhRMA pointed to what it said were insufficient intellectual property provisions.

The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Bradsher, Pollack, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports, "Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania. Auto-parts workers in the Midwest. Pharmaceutical companies concentrated around New Jersey." These are the "pivotal groups, not to mention consumers across the country," who "can expect a wide range of changes in the years ahead from the newly concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, 2.66M), meanwhile, reports that Darci Vetter, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the USTR, said the accord "will boost sales by 'billions,'" and added, "Our meat industry is a big winner."

The [Detroit News](#) (10/6, Shepardson, 493K) reports that it "has learned that under the deal, America's 25 percent tariffs on imported light trucks would remain in place for 30 years." Meanwhile, "the 2.5 percent tariffs on cars would be in place for 25 years, and begin to be phased out after 15 years – falling first to 2.25 percent, and then to 1.25 percent in year 20." [Reuters](#) (10/6, Hughes, Krolicki), meanwhile, says the pact will give Japan more flexibility to purchase parts from Asia for cars sold in the US.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/6, 2.66M) indicates that "US lawmakers sought strong and enforceable language on currency manipulation, but that wasn't in the TPP agreement and will have to be negotiated separately, Representative Sander Levin of Michigan said in a memo to fellow Democrats in the House Advisory Group for Negotiations prior to the deal's announcement." Bloomberg adds that the Treasury Department "will handle those talks."

WPost Praises TPP Deal. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that "what's emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama's promise of a '21st-century' agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs." Looking at the upcoming congressional debate, the Post concludes that "it's enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that."

White House Hopeful About TTIP Talks. The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) reports that the TPP agreement "could provide a boost for a second major trade deal with the European Union that is still being negotiated." Earnest, notes [Reuters](#) (10/6, Edwards), said of the European trade deal, or TTIP, "The negotiations around TTIP are not quite as advanced, but if there is an opportunity for us, based on our consultations with our friends in Europe, to reach an agreement that would have the same kind of economic potential for American businesses and American workers, then we wouldn't hesitate to pursue it."

OBAMA WILL MEET WITH SHOOTING VICTIMS' FAMILIES IN OREGON FRIDAY. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the White House said Monday that President Obama will travel to Roseburg, Oregon on Friday to meet privately with the families of those shot at Umpqua Community College last week. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Eilperin, 6.76M) reports that "according to one White House official, who asked for anonymity to discuss the event in advance, 'further details about the president's travel to Oregon will be made available in the coming days.'" The President "was headed to the Pacific Northwest already on Friday" for a Seattle fundraiser for Sen. Patty Murray. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Korte, 5.23M) says it will be Obama's second visit to the town; "in 2008, he made an unscheduled campaign stop" there.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), John Blackstone reported that "students and staff returned to the community college campus today not for classes but for counseling and to retrieve things left behind in the rush to escape." CBS, as well as [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 5, 1:35, Holt, 7.86M), profiled some of the victims and spoke to family members.

Earnest Says White House Looking Into Executive Action On Guns. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/5, Ross, 375K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Monday that the White House "is considering whether President Obama can take executive action to enforce stronger gun control measures." Earnest said, "The President has frequently pushed his team to consider a range of executive actions that could more effectively keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who shouldn't have access to them. That's something that is ongoing here." The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Wolfgang, 344K) reports Earnest also said "voters who feel passionately about the issue may have to cast their ballots solely based on a candidate's position on guns." He said, "It may be time for some voters to decide they're single-issue voters."

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Reynolds, 5.23M) contributor Glenn Harlan Reynolds writes that President Obama “issued a bold call” in saying it is time “to ‘politicize’” mass shootings “in service of getting rid of guns.” But “no significant gun legislation” will make it through Congress, and gun control is “a bad electoral issue for Democrats.” Reynolds says Obama is stressing the issue to draw attention away from other matters like foreign policy troubles and Hillary Clinton’s campaign difficulties.

Bloomberg Group Proposes Five Gun-Control Executive Actions. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports Everytown for Gun Safety, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s gun control group, “is pushing President Obama to issue new gun regulations in the absence of congressional action.” The group “released a list of five executive actions it says Obama could take to reduce gun violence.”

According to the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, Siemaszko, 3.75M), the proposals include “enforcing the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act by barring people from carrying guns within 1,000 feet of a school,” requiring all “all high-volume gun sellers – including private sellers” – to “obtain dealer licenses and comply with applicable laws, including background checks” on all sales, reporting “every would-be gun purchaser who fails a federal background check to local law enforcement for follow-up,” helping states that currently require background checks “by giving them access to FBI data,” and “barring anybody convicted of domestic abuse...from owning a gun.”

Reid Pushes For Background Checks, Calls Republicans “Puppets Of The NRA.” [Politico](#) (10/5, Kim, Everett, 942K) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid said Monday “that he is reaching out to other Democratic senators on moving background checks legislation,” and criticized Republicans. He said, “One thing is clear. To pass background checks, we need Republicans to stop acting as puppets of the NRA.”

Clinton Says She Would Seek Tighter Gun Restrictions As President. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Hillary Clinton “added her voice to the conversation about gun violence” Monday. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Becker) reports Clinton said in New Hampshire Monday that she would seek expanded background checks for gun buyers as president, and would also take steps to hold gun manufacturers accountable for crimes committed with their products. Clinton asked a community college audience, “How many people have to die before we actually act, before we come together as a nation?”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Rappoport, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says for Clinton, “the issue is an opportunity to present herself as the most proactive Democratic candidate on gun control.” [USA Today](#) (10/6, Przybyla, 5.23M) says Clinton’s remarks set up “a contrast with Bernie Sanders on one of the few issues where she has a more liberal record.” Sanders, “who represents a state with a large number of gun owners, has a history of gun control opposition.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Miller, Riddell, 344K) also reports on Clinton’s remarks.

Shooter’s Mother Wrote Online About Keeping Guns At Home. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Healy, Mcintire, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Laurel Harper, mother of shooter Christopher Harper-Mercer, said in a series of online posts over the years that “she kept numerous firearms in her home and expressed pride in her knowledge about them, as well as in her son’s expertise on the subject.” She wrote at one point, “I keep two full mags in my Glock case. And the ARs & AKs all have loaded mags. No one will be ‘dropping’ by my house uninvited without acknowledgment.”

CITING MCCARTHY REMARKS, CLINTON CALLS BENGHAZI PANEL “POLITICAL PARTISAN COMMITTEE.” On [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 8, 2:10, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir reported that Hillary Clinton “came out swinging” on Monday “at the Benghazi committee.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega added, “With her sagging polls in” New Hampshire, Clinton – visiting the state on Monday – went “after the Republican led Benghazi committee investigating her private email server.” Referring to House Majority Leader McCarthy’s comments last week that the panel’s probe had damaged her standing in the polls, Clinton was shown saying of Republicans, “Look at the situation they chose to exploit to go after me for political reasons, the death of four Americans in Benghazi. I knew the ambassador. I identified him. I asked him to go there.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 6, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported Clinton on Monday “appeared to have new wind in her sails, given an opening after a political gaffe by” McCarthy. NBC’s Andrea Mitchell reported that “Clinton was on fire today, lashing out at the House Benghazi committee during a ‘Today’ show town hall.” Mitchell added that Clinton seized “on Kevin McCarthy’s damaging admission that [the Benghazi panel’s probe] was politically motivated.” Mitchell also reported that Clinton went “after Republicans for their response to [last week’s deadly shooting spree in] Oregon,” criticizing Jeb Bush and Donald Trump by name.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Miller, 344K) reports that Clinton argued McCarthy's comments "proved the panel was [a] political hit job aimed solely at her." Clinton, however, "stopped short of backing calls by other top Democrats to shut down the committee, saying that is up to Congress." Of the Republicans, Clinton said, "Now that they have admitted that it is a political partisan committee for the sole purpose of going after me, not trying to make our diplomats who serve in dangerous areas safer, that's up to the Congress."

Clinton Ad Highlights McCarthy Comments. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Clinton aides are launching a TV ad highlighting McCarthy's remarks. In the ad, a narrator says, "The Republicans finally admit it." The spot "then cuts to footage of Mr. McCarthy, with the voice of the NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell saying during one of her broadcasts: 'Republican Kevin McCarthy saying the committee investigating Benghazi and Clinton's emails was created to destroy her candidacy.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Gearan, 6.76M) reports that in the spot, which will "begin airing Tuesday on CNN and MSNBC," a narrator says, "The Republicans have spent millions attacking Hillary because she's fighting for everything they oppose. From affordable health care to equal pay, she'll never stop fighting for you and the Republicans know it."

Democrats On Benghazi Panel Say They'll Begin Releasing Witness Transcripts. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cornwell, Allen) reports that Democrats on the Benghazi Committee on Monday said that they – in defiance of the Republicans on the GOP-led panel – will release a transcript of an interview the committee conducted with Cheryl Mills, who served as Clinton's chief of staff at the State Department when the Libya terror attacks occurred – a move that comes in the wake of McCarthy's comments last week. In a Monday letter to Benghazi panel chairman Trey Gowdy, the Democrats on the committee said that they would, starting with the testimony of Mills, begin releasing interviews of various witnesses in order "to correct the record" over what the Democrats said had been "a series of selective leaks of inaccurate and incomplete information" by Republicans aimed at hurting Clinton.

Asked About FBI Probe Of Clinton Email System, Lynch Says All "Leaks Are Detrimental." In a blog post, [Politico](#) (10/5, Gerstein, 942K) reported that Attorney General Lynch, asked "about leaks in the FBI inquiry into potential classified information breaches in...Clinton's private email system," on Monday offered "a broadside against improper public discussions of law enforcement matters," though she made no "direct reference to the ongoing probe into the former secretary of state's private email setup." Lynch, speaking at a news conference unrelated to the FBI probe, said, "I think leaks are detrimental to any matter, no matter what it is, no matter who is involved because everyone wants to have matters conducted in the way the department always does, which is thoroughly, fairly, efficiently and with a view towards whatever the ultimate resolution is going to be."

WPost Examines Clinton's Interactions With Wealthy Donors While At State. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Hamburger, 6.76M) reports on emails released last week by the State Department that show how Clinton, during her tenure as secretary of state, "interacted with major donors to her family's causes," remaining "in touch with her political network before her 2016 White House bid. The emails also "show how these donors, some of them with interests before the US government, gained high-level access to press policy concerns inside the Clinton-led State Department." As examples of the donors, the Post mentions George Soros, "a top contributor to the Clinton Foundation," media mogul Haim Saban, and Bill Gates of Microsoft, among others, and the Post adds of Clinton, "Because she and her family have raised so much money over the years from wealthy individuals and major corporations," the Democratic presidential frontrunner's "public business as secretary inevitably brought her in contact with private interests that helped boost her family's philanthropy and income."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "The Aftermath Of A Deadly Airstrike In Afghanistan." An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says Gen. John Campbell's promise of a "through investigation" of the US airstrike which hit a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz is "not sufficient." The Times argues that "an independent panel should quickly be empowered to obtain all the information needed to produce a credible conclusion about what went so horribly wrong."

"President Obama Needs To Make Case For Pacific Trade Deal." A [New York Times](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial calls on the President to "persuade the public and Congress...that this is a good deal." The Times argues that "done right, an agreement tying these countries together should bolster everyone's economy and help raise labor, environment and other standards."

“Foreclosure Abuses, Revisited.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) argues that the “promise of widespread relief for homeowners facing foreclosure in the wake of the housing bust has never been realized,” because the government “did not require the banks to rework bad loans, which in many cases the banks offloaded on the federal agencies that insured them.” The Times says that “federal mortgage sales are apparently occurring before all borrowers have been given a chance to apply for and receive help that was promised,” and “for that reason...should be suspended until the government has procedures in place to protect the rights of homeowners.”

WASHINGTON POST. **“The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is A Trade Deal Worth Celebrating.”** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that “what’s emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama’s promise of a ‘21st-century’ agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs.” Looking at the upcoming Congressional debate, the Post concludes that “it’s enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that.”

“The EPA’s New Smog Limits May Be Late, But They Are A Start.” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) says the Administration’s “push to change ozone regulations” is late, considering that under the Clean Air Act, the EPA “must reevaluate its ozone regulations every five years and update them according to current science.” The Post adds that at the new standards issued by the EPA last week, “health complications from dirty air would still occur, but they would decrease,” and notes that “the level the EPA chose is at the high end of the range of options it was considering, which is a significant concession to industry.”

“Texas’s War On Birthright Babies.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) argues in an editorial that “Texas, blinded to the law by its antipathy to illegal immigrants, has determined that it is somehow exempt” from the 14th Amendment, which “states plainly that citizenship is automatically conferred on anyone born in the United States.” The Post calls the states refusal to issue birth certificates to children whose parents are undocumented immigrants, an “act of stunning official arrogance,” adding that it is “not governance; it’s harassment and oppression.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. **“More Proof On Pebble.”** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA’s rejection of Alaska’s proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency’s inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

“Bharara’s Supreme Court Miss.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) laments the fact that in declining to hear an appeal of a decision which overturned two insider-trading convictions, the Supreme Court did not take the opportunity to clarify insider-trading law, but lauds the court for letting stand the ruling that overturned the convictions, and repeated its argument that insider-trading prosecutions are too often the result of prosecutorial overreach.

“The Lost Education Opportunity.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues that while John King is a good choice to replace outgoing Education Secretary Duncan, he is unlikely to achieve much in the last days of the Administration. The Journal editorial focuses primarily on Duncan’s tenure, criticizing his unwillingness to stand up to the unions and the Administration’s actions concerning for-profit higher education.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Governor Signs End-Of-Life Act](#)

[Bumper Crop Of Squalor](#)

[A Last-Ditch Effort To Save LA Firm](#)

[Trade Deal Puts A US Stamp On Asian Economy](#)

[US Changes Its Account On Bombing Of Hospital](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman Steps Down](#)

Activist Investors: Helping Or Hindering?
US Sees Russian Drive Against CIA-Backed Rebels
Price Increases Drive Drug Firms' Revenue

New York Times:

Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal Is Reached
Russian Soldiers To Join Fight In Syria
US General Says Afghans Requested Airstrike That Hit Kunduz Hospital
Oregon Killer's Mother Wrote Of Troubled Son And Gun Rights
A Missing Ship With No Signs Of Survivors
Scandal Erupts In Unregulated World Of Fantasy Sports

Washington Post:

Bernie Sanders's Red-State Appeal
Coast Guard Thinks Cargo Ship Sank In Hurricane
New Nationals Manager Must Take A Leading Role
Nations Agree To Pacific Pact
Pentagon Admits US Gunship Hit Hospital
DC Seeks To Offer Best Family-Leave Policy In US

Financial Times:

US And 11 Nations Seal Pacific Trade Deal
Jack Dorsey Back As Twitter CEO

Washington Times:

Clinton White House Suppressed Evidence Of Iranians' Terrorism
Following Oregon, Clinton On Anti-Gun Warpath
"It Was Not Our Best Year"
Lawmakers, Candidates Are Skeptical Of Trade Deal
Pakistani Denies Armed Drones Made In China
Houston Debates Gender ID, Public Restrooms Before Vote

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: US Cargo Ship-Sunk; Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Rescues; American Airlines Flight-Pilot Death; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Ignition Switches-Carbon Monoxide; Airline Ticket Pricing.

CBS: Severe Weather; US Cargo Ship Sunk; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; American Airlines-Pilot Death; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Syria-Russian Military; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombed; Former US Congressman-Gun Violence Discussion; Air France-Union Strikes.

NBC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; US Cargo Ship Sunk; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombed; Oregon College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; 2016 Politics-Carly Fiorina; American Airlines-Pilot Death; Vermont-Amtrak Derailment; Air France-Union Strikes.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 10 minutes, 50 seconds
US Cargo Ship Stranded – 7 minutes, 25 seconds
Afghanistan Hospital Bombing – 6 minutes, 20 seconds
Oregon College Shooting – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
2016 Politics – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
American Airlines-Pilot Death – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-South Carolina; Oregon College Shooting; American Airlines-Pilot Death; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; US Cargo Ship Sunk.

CBS: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Sunk; California Governor-Right To Die Bill; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing;

NPR: California Governor-Right To Die Bill; Severe Weather-South Carolina; Justice Department-BP Oil Spill Costs; Bethlehem Violence-Palestinian Boy Killed; Asian Markets; Russia-Turkish Air Space Violation; Nevada-Mental Health Budget.

FOX: Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Sunk; California Governor-Right To Die Bill.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY’S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No public schedule announced.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 11:30 AM Senators Offer Measure to Help Military Families – – U.S. Senators Roy Blunt (Mo.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.) will hold a press conference along with military families and support groups to announce the introduction of the Military Family Stability Act of 2015. Speakers include: Senators Roy Blunt and Kirsten Gillibrand; Members, National Military Family Association; Mia Reisweber – military spouse, Ph.D. student; Liz O’Brien – military spouse, former Division 1 college basketball coach. Contact: Press Office, (202) 224-1403. Location: SVC 209

2:30 PM Fired California nurse; Sen. Bernie Sanders – Workers Rights Bill – Allysha Almada, RN will also join Sen. Bernie Sanders for a press conference to introduction of a new bill by Sanders and colleagues to strengthen the right of workers to form a union. Speakers: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Mark Pocan, introduction of Workplace Democracy Act, Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office Building, 216) NOTE: Allysha will also speak at a press event at 1 p.m. with leaders of the AFL-CIO in advance of the White House Summit. Location for that event: AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St NW. Location: Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office.

2:30 PM Fired California nurse; Sen. Bernie Sanders – Workers Rights Bill – Allysha Almada, RN will also join Sen. Bernie Sanders for a press conference to introduction of a new bill by Sanders and colleagues to strengthen the right of workers to form a union. Speakers: Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Mark Pocan, introduction of Workplace Democracy Act, Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office Building, 216) Contact: Senator Sander’s office – (202) 224-5141. NOTE: Allysha will also speak at a press event at 1 p.m. with leaders of the AFL-CIO in advance of the White House Summit. Location for that event: AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St NW. Location: Senate Swamp (rain location, Hart Senate Office. www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the NLRB joint employer decision – Hearing on ‘Stealing the American Dream of Business Ownership: The NLRB’s Joint Employer Decision’, with testimony from MODE Stores owner and founder Ciara Stockeland; Tilson Home Corporation President/CEO Edward Martin; Ogletree Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart shareholder Mark Kisicki; and Altshuler Berzon partner Michael Rubin Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

2:15 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on ‘how overregulation harms minorities’ – Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts Subcommittee hearing on ‘Opportunity Denied: How Overregulation Harms Minorities’, with testimony from National Black Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Harry Alford; The LIBRE Institute National Economic Prosperity Manager Michael Barrera; Loving Tax Services owner and operator Sabina Loving; Sierra Club President Aaron Mair; Public Citizen Regulation Policy Advocate Amit Narang; Pacific Legal Foundation Principal Attorney Timothy Sandefur; and Emerging ChangeMakers Network Soul’utions Business Accelerator William Scott Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Afghanistan – Hearing on ‘The Situation in Afghanistan’, with testimony from United States Forces-Afghanistan Resolute Support Mission Commander Gen. John Campbell Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Energy Secretary Moniz testifies to Senate Energy Committee on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the potential modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and related energy security issues, with testimony from Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz; Securing America’s Future Energy Commission on Energy and Geopolitics Co-Chair (and former Director of National Intelligence) Adm. (Ret.) Dennis Blair; Columbia University Center for Global Energy Policy Founding Director Jason Bordoff; ClearView Energy Partners Managing Director Kevin Brook; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program Director Sarah Ladislaw Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

11:00 AM Dem Sen. Tom Udall calls for passage of chemical safety reform – Democratic Sen. Tom Udall calls on Congress to pass the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, via press conference with Bonnie Lautenberg – widow of former Sen. Frank Lautenberg – and supporters of chemical safety reform, including fellow Democratic Sens. Cory Booker, Tom Carper, Chris Coons, Jeff Merkley, and Sheldon Whitehouse, Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, Humane Society Legislative Fund executive director Sara Amundson, March of Dimes Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs Cynthia Pellegrini, and Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine President Dr Neal Barnard Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC
<http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorTomUdall>

2:15 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider the nomination of Michael Michaud to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S. in the Middle East – Hearing on 'The U.S. Role and Strategy in the Middle East: Yemen and the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council', with testimony from Metis Solutions founder and CEO Mary Beth Long; and Arab Gulf States Institute Executive Vice President Stephen Seche Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, with testimony from Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health Clinical Operations Thomas Lynch; Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Special Assistant Vince Kane; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel Staff Attorney Jennifer Gray; Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Legislative Associate Lauren Augustine; The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Director Lou Celli; National League of Cities Principal Associate for Housing (Veterans and Special Needs) Elisha Harig-Blaine; and Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Committee Vice-Chairman David Norris Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

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/ <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. 2091 – Child Support Assistance Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1553 – Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1525 – Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3032 – Securities and Exchange Commission Reporting Modernization Act of 2015', 'H.R. 1839 – Reforming Access for Investments in Startup Enterprises Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3102 – Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015', 'H.R. 3510 – Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Strategy Act of 2015', 'S. 1300 – Adoptive Family Relief Act', 'S. 2078 – United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015', 'H.R. 2168 – West Coast Dungeness Crab Management Act, as amended', and 'S. 986 – Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:00 PM Closed hearing on 'Access Request' Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

Tuesday, Oct. 06 – Thursday, Oct. 08 Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference – Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference, featuring national leaders, elected officials, corporate executives, community activists, educators, entertainers, and media personalities. Day one includes CHCI Leadership Luncheon, featuring remarks from Attorney General Loretta Lynch * Part of the Caucus' Hispanic Heritage Month event Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
hnm.chci.org [#2015HHM](https://twitter.com/CHCI)

Other: 8:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce Cybersecurity Summit – U.S. Chamber of Commerce 4th Annual Cybersecurity Summit, held in conjunction with American Express, Dell, and Southern Company, with experts from the business community, federal agencies, and the executive and legislative branches addressing international concerns, information sharing, and insurance issue. Speakers include bipartisan Sens. Richard Burr and Dianne Feinstein, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas and Deputy Under Secretary

for Cybersecurity and Communications Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Secretary of Energy Liz Sherwood-Randall, U.S. Cyber Command Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Kevin McLaughlin, Southern Company Chair, President, and CEO Tom Fanning, former National Security Advisor Gen. (Ret.) James Jones, and USCC Senior Vice President for National Security and Emergency Preparedness Ann Beauchesne Location: USCC, H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:00 AM Mexican state governor speaks at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts roundtable discussion with Guanajuato (Mexico) Governor Miguel Marquez, on his state's role as a key logistics hub for Mexico's growing manufacturing and services industries. Business leaders and policy experts hear about investment opportunities and his plans for future development of the state Location: USCC, H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:30 AM 2015 Index of Culture and Opportunity contributors at Heritage Foundation event – 'The 2015 Index of Culture and Opportunity: Sound Solutions Begin with Accurate Assessment of the Challenges' Heritage Foundation event, with Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, Heritage Foundation Fellow in Education Policy Lindsey Burke and B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics Director David Azerrad, and contributors to the 2015 Index – Ethics and Public Policy Center Fellow Yuval Levin, Center for Neighborhood Enterprise founder and President Robert Woodson, Sr., and North Carolina State University Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Human Development Assistant Professor Anna Egalite – discussing 'the nature of the challenges facing our communities today' * Index, from the Heritage Foundation Institute of Family, Culture, and Opportunity, tracks trends from marriage to volunteering to welfare dependence to student loan debt, pairing data on 31 indicators with commentary from 21 contributors Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:00 PM CDC telebriefing on Vital Signs report on hospital support for breastfeeding – CDC Director Tom Frieden discusses new Vital Signs report on 'What more can hospitals do to encourage and support breastfeeding?', which says that hospital support for breastfeeding has largely improved since 2007, via media telebriefing * Embargoed until 1:00 PM EDT Location: TBD www.cdc.gov <https://twitter.com/CDCgov>

1:00 PM House Republican Policy Committee Law Enforcement Task Force hearing – Republican Representative Dave Reichert holds a hearing titled 'Examining the State of Relations Between the People and Their Protectors' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC <http://reichert.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/davereichert>

2:00 PM 'Chinese Political Warfare in East Asia and Beyond' conference at Heritage Foundation – 'Influence Operations: Chinese Political Warfare in East Asia and Beyond' conference, hosted by Heritage Foundation and Project 2049 Institute, bringing together experts to focus on the characteristics of Chinese political warfare and identify key political goals and tactics in its influence operations towards specific targets in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Republican Rep. J. Randy Forbes keynotes, with panelists including Shih-Chung Liu (Tainan City Government in Taiwan), Dean Cheng (Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center), and Randy Schriver (Project 2049 Institute) Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Energy Secretary Moniz speaks at Minorities in Energy Initiative forum – Second Department of Energy Minorities in Energy Initiative (MEI) forum, aimed at increasing minority participation in the energy sector through engagement in STEM education, energy economic development, and climate change. Speakers include Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Advisor Dr Marvin Carr, DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity Director Dot Harris, Lockheed Martin Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin Energy Vice President Frank Armijo, SoCalGas President and CEO Dennis Amiola, and SUNY College at Old Westbury President Dr Calvin Butts Location: Lockheed Martin Global Vision Center, 2121 Crystal City Dr, Arlington VA Arlington www.energy.gov <https://twitter.com/ENERGY>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Some more trouble for Hillary Clinton. Last week the firefighters union announced that it was no longer supporting Hillary for president. You know your campaign's in trouble when firefighters are like, 'Even we can't put out that many fires.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In an interview with Al Sharpton this weekend, Hillary Clinton said that, 'Donald Trump just says whatever he needs to in order to stir up the passions of the people.' And Al Sharpton was like, 'You know you're talking to me, right?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In a speech in Tennessee, Trump talked about his decision to run for president and said, 'I didn't want to do this. I had to do this.' And he was immediately sued by Jeb Bush for stealing his campaign slogan."

Jimmy Fallon: "A new report found that Donald Trump is no longer the most liked candidate on Facebook, and Ben Carson now has the most likes with over four million. You could tell that Carson is pretty excited 'cause when he found out he actually opened both eyes."

Jimmy Fallon: "On Friday, Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced that he has plans to step down from his position in December. Until his replacement starts, [President] Obama's gonna have a substitute education secretary who just shows videos all day."

Conan O'Brien: "Speaking of presidential candidates, Carly Fiorina said that her degree in medieval history will help her defeat ISIL. She said knowledge of the medieval world also helps her when making policy on birth control."

Seth Meyers: "Hillary Clinton said this weekend that the record turnout for Bernie Sanders' rallies is great for the Democratic Party. And it wasn't easy for her to say that, because at the time, she was biting a cinder block in half."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump said in an interview this weekend that he has a license to carry a concealed firearm in New York, and added that if someone ever attacked him, they're going to be shocked, especially when they see where he keeps it. 'I'll happily turn over my wallet. Just let me straighten my hair.'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump confirmed in an interview today that he operates his own Twitter account. However, his mouth and his brain are run by interns."

Seth Meyers: "Republican presidential hopeful Chris Christie said this weekend that he would rather jump off the Brooklyn Bridge than be in Congress. And just to be safe, [New York City] Mayor [Bill] de Blasio issued a tsunami warning for lower Manhattan."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 13, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 6:56 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Jewell Speaks At Celebration Of Valles Caldera's Addition To NPS.](#)
- + [Waco Mammoth Site Designated National Monument.](#)
- + [Interior IG Report Finds NPS Improperly Rented Out Cabin For Politicians.](#)
- + [Interior, Forest Service Evaluating Drones For Fighting Wildfires.](#)
- + [Interior To Establish New Bison Herd In AZ.](#)
- + [Continuing Coverage: CA Group Appeals Pamunkey Tribe's Federal Recognition.](#)
- + [Hill Analysis: The Fair Market Value Of Coal.](#)
- + [Jewell Quoted Regarding Lapse Of Land And Water Conservation Fund.](#)
- + [Coalition Asks Interior, FWS To Release Of Mexican Wolves Despite NM Opposition.](#)
- + [Decision Not To List Sage Grouse As Endangered Praised.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Cities Opt To Celebrate Native Americans On Columbus Day.](#)
- + [ED Announces Grants For Native Youth College, Career Readiness.](#)
- + [Pointe-Au-Chien Tribe Suing BP, Others Over Oil Spill.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Kia'aina Emotionally Recalls Meeting Typhoon Victims.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Congress Allows Land And Water Conservation Fund To Expire.](#)
- + ["Culture Of Badgering" Helped Cut California Water Usage.](#)
- + [Senators Seek Compromise On Drought Relief Legislation.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Big Data Investments Optimizing Power From Wind.](#)
- + [Investors Cooling On Renewable Energy Shares.](#)
- + [New Mexico To Have Three New Utility-Scale Solar Facilities By End Of 2016.](#)
- + [Duke Energy Says New Sensors Lead To Big Savings At Plants.](#)
- + [Texas Wind Power Boom May Slow As Tax Break Expires.](#)
- + [German Solar Contractor To Enter Power Producer Business In North Carolina.](#)
- + [Global Wind Installations Poised To Double In Five Years.](#)
- + [SunEdison To Exit Britain As Government Cuts Rooftop Solar Subsidies.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Emergency Plan Addresses Threat From Underground Fire Near Nuclear Waste Site.](#)
- + [Analysis: Nuclear Power May Offer Solution For Michigan's Carbon Emission Goals.](#)
- + [US Shale Oil Industry Can Profoundly Impact Global Oil Market.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Tuscaloosa News Says Oil Companies Have Learned From BP Spill.](#)

AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Director Kornze Speaks On New Bike Trail Map App.](#)
- + [Nevada Purchases Land To Triple Size Of Cave Lake State Park.](#)
- + [Congressman Seeks Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument To Prevent Uranium Ore Mining.](#)
- + [Senate Considers Bill To Protect Land In Southern CA.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS Removes Ute Wildflower From Endangered Species Candidate List.](#)
- + [FWS Proposes Protections For South Pacific Ocean Creatures, Will Review Polar Bear’s Status.](#)
- + [Survey Suggests High Political Influence At FWS.](#)
- + [FWS Proposes Protections For Florida Plants, Freshwater Mussel.](#)
- + [FWS Investigates Fatal California Condor Shooting In AZ.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Critics Fight Maine Woods National Park Proposal Over Fears Of NPS Regulation.](#)
- + [NPS Finds Man Dead In Tent In Rocky Mountain National Park.](#)
- + [NPS Searches For Missing Diver In Lake Powell, AZ.](#)
- + [Parks Foundation Contest Winners Visit CO National Parks.](#)
- + [Senators Propose Study That Could Make Evers Home Part Of NPS.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [Series Of Small Earthquakes Recorded In Northern Oklahoma.](#)
- + [Editorial: Arctic May Become Too Cost Prohibitive For Industry.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Coverage Of Obama Interview Focuses On Clinton Email Comments.](#)
- + [Administration Plans “Major Changes” To HealthCare.gov.](#)
- + [Obama Laments “Us Versus Them” Mentality Among Some US Christians.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

JEWELL SPEAKS AT CELEBRATION OF VALLES CALDERA’S ADDITION TO NPS. In continuing coverage of the NPS’ planned celebration of Valles Caldera’s transition from trust management to the Park Service, the [AP](#) (10/10) featured the statements of US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at Saturday’s ceremony. Jewell is quoted as saying, “This spectacular area tells a story of New Mexico’s rich natural and cultural heritage,” adding, “We are honored to serve as stewards of this land to ensure that it remains cared for and shared with future generations.” Jewell called Valles Caldera “a perfect example of the key role the Land and Water Conservation Fund has played in enhancing public lands from city parks to national parks over the last 50 years.” Jewell is paraphrased as emphasizing “the value of the preserve to many native tribes,” and as noting that “The Interior Department is committed to being stewards of the preserve and supporting the values held by

the tribes.”

This report was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/10, 344K) and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K).

The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (10/13, Clark) quoted Secretary Jewell as stating, “Today we celebrate an outstanding addition to the National Park family – the Valles Caldera ... This spectacular area tells a story of New Mexico’s rich natural and cultural heritage. We are honored to serve as stewards of this land to ensure that it remains cared for and shared with future generations.” Jewell said she joined “with Americans across the country in calling on Congress to permanently reauthorize and provide dedicated funding for this program in order to honor our nation’s outdoor heritage and provide resources to local communities who want to invest in conservation, historic preservation and recreational opportunities.” Other speakers at the dedication included Ken Smith, former chairman of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees, along with NPS Regional Director Sue Masica and Park Superintendent Jorge Silva-Bañuelos, former executive director of the Valles Caldera Trust.

The [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (10/12, St. Cyr, 69K) also covers this story in a brief. The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (10/13, Clark) reported in anticipation of the event.

WACO MAMMOTH SITE DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Examiner](#) (10/13, Burmeier, 1.34M) provided the history of the Waco Mammoth Site, designated as a national monument in July 2015, which protects the location “where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found.” Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell is quoted as saying, “Our National Parks inspire and teach us about our nation’s natural history – in this case, about the prehistoric animals that walked our Earth tens of thousands of years ago,” adding that, “The Waco Mammoth National Monument will share the wonder of these incredible mammoths with visitors from around the world and help introduce a new generation to the thrill of scientific discovery that only a special site like this can demonstrate first-hand.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said the NPS “will work in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University to protect, preserve, and most importantly share the remarkable Waco Mammoth National Monument with the American people and visitors from around the world.”

INTERIOR IG REPORT FINDS NPS IMPROPERLY RENTED OUT CABIN FOR POLITICIANS. The [AP](#) (10/9, Bob Moen) reported on an Interior Department Inspector General’s report that found the NPS rented out the Brinkerhoff Lodge in Grand Teton National Park “as a low-cost family vacation getaway” to “politicians and others” including Vice President Joe Biden, despite its designation for official government business. The IG report “recommended that the Park Service change its practice of charging guests little or nothing for overnight stays and improve the lodge’s management, fire safety and security.” The AP listed politicians alleged to have stayed in the cabin.

This story was also carried by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/9, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, 2.28M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/9, Moen, 1.19M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/9, 5.59M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/9, Moen, 1.06M), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/11, Moen, 115K), and on the website of [WTRF-TV Wheeling \(WV\) Wheeling, WV](#) (10/13, 26K).

NPS spokeswoman April Slayton told [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Bogardus, Subscription Publication) that in response to the IG report the agency will not allow personal use of the lodge in the future, “and only government employees on official travel with a valid travel authorization will be allowed to stay at the lodge.”

INTERIOR, FOREST SERVICE EVALUATING DRONES FOR FIGHTING WILDFIRES. [The Hill](#) (10/10, Cama, 471K) reported that the Department of the Interior and the US Forest service is examining whether to employ unmanned helicopters in managing massive wildfires, adding that agencies officials will attend a demonstration in Idaho next week of an unmanned K-Max helicopter, developed by Lockheed Martin and Kaman Aerospace. In a joint statement, the two Federal agencies said, “The Interior Department and U.S. Forest Service are constantly examining new technologies to improve the safety and effectiveness of wildland firefighters on the ground,” noting, “the challenges of safely operating during periods of reduced visibility and at night can preclude manned aircraft from supporting wildfire operations.”

INTERIOR TO ESTABLISH NEW BISON HERD IN AZ. The [AP](#) (10/12) reports that the Interior Department agreed with Arizona state officials to establish a bison herd in northern AZ that had genetic lineage from western South Dakota’s Wind Cave National Park. The Game and Fish Department is paraphrased as saying the “establishment of the herd is part of a national effort to conserve bison lineages that have high genetic purity, genetic diversity, and rare bison genes,” adding that “Both herds have high levels of cattle DNA.”

This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, 344K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K), and the websites of [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\) Phoenix](#) (10/13, 103K) and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\) Tucson, AZ](#) (10/13, 23K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE: CA GROUP APPEALS PAMUNKEY TRIBE'S FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [AP](#) (10/9) continued coverage of Stand Up for California's "last-minute appeal" of the Interior Department decision to grant Virginia's Pamunkey Indian Tribe Federal recognition, because the California organization "that favors gambling limits" is concerned the tribe could open a casino, despite its stated intentions not to do so. Virginia state already recognizes the Pamunkey. The article featured opinion that the appeal is "unfounded, meritless, and unsupported by evidence."

This report was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, 2.28M), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (10/13, 91K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/11, 337), and the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/13, 66K), as well as the websites of [KFMB-TV San Diego \(CA\) San Diego](#) (10/9, 53K) and [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\) Charlottesville, VA](#) (10/9, 3K).

The [Virginia Gazette](#) (10/9, Brauchle, 50K) featured the interview comments of Stand Up for California director Cheryl A. Schmit, who said the appeal has "nothing personal with the tribe, it's all about the process," asserting the tribe has failed to properly show its historical lineage. Schmit contended, "It's a very serious and solemn decision when the Department of Interior makes these recognitions," adding the Department "should be concerned about the integrity of these decisions."

HILL ANALYSIS: THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF COAL. In its "Pundits Blog," [The Hill](#) (10/9, Hein, Contributor, 471K) reported that the Department of the Interior should seek to "account for the upstream costs of coal mining on federal lands" as the Administration "makes strides to reduce downstream greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants." The Hill asserted that this will help to satisfy "fiscal reform advocates who demand a 'fair share' for energy production" and "environmentalists who seek to lessen the negative externalities associated with coal mining." The Hill also said the Federal government needed to close "fiscal loopholes" for coal companies, which reportedly cost taxpayers "up to \$1 billion each year in lost revenue." The Hill praised Secretary Sally Jewell's call for an "honest and open conversation about modernizing the federal coal program" as "a welcome first step."

JEWELL QUOTED REGARDING LAPSE OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. The [Coyote Chronicle](#) (10/13, Harrison) reports that Congress allowed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to lapse. The article quotes US Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell as commenting that, "after 50 years of resounding success in enriching America's great outdoors, the Land and Water Conservation Fund needlessly faces an uncertain future. I am extremely disappointed that, despite overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress has allowed this innovative and effective program to expire."

Montana Asserts Harms From Lapse Of Land And Water Conservation Fund. Continuing coverage of a previous [AP](#) (10/13, Whittle) report and relying on information in the [Montana Standard](#) (10/13, Kuglin, 36K), the [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks argued the loss of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which Congress allowed to lapse in Sept., "could harm the program that focuses on nongame species in need of management, such as small birds, reptiles and amphibians." The article notes that the state "has received more than \$14.3 million in State Wildlife Grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 2000," and that the Fund has "paid for \$41 million in Habitat Conservation Plan grants to the state since 2002."

The [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M) also carried this report, and the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (10/13, Whittle, 37K) provided additional coverage.

Additional Coverage. In an op-ed for [Vermont Business Magazine](#) (10/13, Leahy, 23K), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) advocated for re-authorization of the now-lapsed Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Historic Preservation Fund.

Columnist Hannah Ryan wrote in a piece for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/9, Ryan, 116K) to decry the failure to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which she said could become "a great program that we didn't save."

COALITION ASKS INTERIOR, FWS TO RELEASE OF MEXICAN WOLVES DESPITE NM OPPOSITION.

[Greenwire](#) (10/9, Hiar, Subscription Publication) continued coverage on Thursday of the activists' letter submitted yesterday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Director Dan Ashe petitioning for the release of at least five packs of Mexican gray wolves in NM to strengthen the genetics of the endangered predators, in spite of state opposition.

DECISION NOT TO LIST SAGE GROUSE AS ENDANGERED PRAISED. Columnist Kelly Sloan wrote in the [Colorado Statesman](#) (10/9, Sloan, 17K) praising the Department of the Interior's decision not to list the greater sage grouse as endangered, calling it "good news" that an endangered listing was averted, "at least temporarily," because "an Endangered Species listing is traditionally one of the most injurious hammers in Interior's arsenal, one that can leave permanent economic scars."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CITIES OPT TO CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICANS ON COLUMBUS DAY. The [Raycom News Network](#) (10/9, Wright) reported on cities and states recognizing the Federal holiday Columbus Day as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in order to celebrate Native Americans' contributions. In addition, Hawaii recognizes Columbus Day as "Discoverers Day," while some "States also have opted to ignore the Columbus holiday" altogether. [WFSB-TV New Haven \(CT\)](#) New Haven, CT (10/13, Wright, 269K) also carries this story on its website.

The [AP](#) (10/13) features the opinion of American Indian activists who contend a Federal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus "overlooks a painful history of colonialism, enslavement, discrimination and land grabs that followed the Italian explorer's 1492 arrival in the Americas"; meanwhile, advocates assert the holiday "celebrates centuries of cultural exchange between America and Europe, commemorates an iconic explorer and honors Italian-Americans, a group that has endured its own share of discrimination."

The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (10/13, Melo, 447K) and the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/12, Butler, 28K) report similarly.

ED ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR NATIVE YOUTH COLLEGE, CAREER READINESS. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (10/13, 364K) reports that ED has announced "more than \$5.3 million in grants to help Native American youth become college- and career-ready." ED's Native Youth Community Projects program will give "grants to a dozen recipients in nine states that will impact more than thirty tribes and involve more than 48 schools." The paper quotes Education Secretary Arne Duncan saying, "These grants are an unprecedented investment in our Native youth, and a recognition that tribal communities are best positioned to drive solutions and lead change. These grants are a down payment on President Obama's commitment last summer at his historic trip to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota to create new opportunities for our American Indian youth to cultivate the next generation of Native leaders."

POINTE-AU-CHIEN TRIBE SUING BP, OTHERS OVER OIL SPILL. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (10/10, Somosot, 55K) reports federal court records show that "the Pointe-au-Chien Indian tribe is suing BP, Transocean and Halliburton for damages in connection with the severe loss of tribal lands and resources stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010." The tribe's attorney "opted to not accept the compensation offered by BP, as it was insufficient to cover its out-of-pocket costs and amounted to less than \$75,000."

Office of Insular Affairs:

KIA'AINA EMOTIONALLY RECALLS MEETING TYPHOON VICTIMS. [Marianas Variety](#) (10/9, Villahemosa) reported on Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina's "teary-eyed" statement to the press on Wednesday, recalling meeting with victims of Typhoon Soudelor on Saipan. Kia'aina said, "I am completely amazed by the professionalism, cooperation and dedication by the CNMI government as well as the people's resiliency." Kia'aina stated the agency was present on Tuesday to "support the emergency management team to determine and to assess the current status of their recovery effort as well as to look at innovative ways of collaborating on long-term hazard mitigation planning and determining strategic areas and how to leverage resources."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CONGRESS ALLOWS LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND TO EXPIRE. [USA Today](#) (10/12, Theobald, 5.23M) reports that congress missed the Sept. 30 deadline for reauthorizing the Land and Water

Conservation Fund, which “has had wide bipartisan support for 50 years.” Supporters of the fund blame House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Ron Bishop, who is “among a group of conservatives who are leery of the federal government acquiring additional land when, for example, there is a \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog on existing National Park Service land.” Meanwhile in the Senate, Sen. Mike Lee “blocked several attempts on the floor to permanently authorize the fund on the final day before it expired,” noting that “more than two-thirds of his state is federal land” and “the federal government should focus on properly managing the land it already owns.”

“CULTURE OF BADGERING” HELPED CUT CALIFORNIA WATER USAGE. The [New York Times](#) (10/12, Richtel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that while California officials “credit their new conservation policies and the sting of thousands of warnings and penalties that they had issued to people for overuse,” for the state’s sharp reduction in water usage over the summer, “the most effective enforcers may be closer to home: the domestic water police,” including “moms and dads, spouses and partners, children, even co-workers and neighbors who are quick to wag a finger when they spot people squandering moisture.” The Times says this “culture of badgering has intensified since January 2014, when the drought led Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency and ask Californians to voluntarily cut water use by 20 percent.”

SENATORS SEEK COMPROMISE ON DROUGHT RELIEF LEGISLATION. [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Snider, Subscription Publication) reported that on Thursday US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) suggested that legislative “efforts to pass drought relief legislation for California and the West” will depend on whether negotiators can find areas of common agreement.

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIG DATA INVESTMENTS OPTIMIZING POWER FROM WIND. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/12, Hirtenstein, 2.66M) reports that Italy’s Enel, is investing “small sums of money” to tap significant savings by examining the data that comes from hundreds of power plants. Italy’s largest utility “already is squeezing more out of the wind farms it operates around the world” after operational data identified certain wind turbines had software that held back performance. CEO Francesco Starace “expects a deeper analysis of data to produce more savings and open new opportunities,” Bloomberg reports, adding that he sees big data explaining and predicting consumer behavior in the long term and “Information about their machines’ performance is immediately applicable in the short term.” Starace said that the Enel is “investing in batteries of all kinds, hardware and software management, plants with and without batteries, putting storage in people’s homes and electric vehicles.”

INVESTORS COOLING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SHARES. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/12, Warner, 455K) reports on renewables’ downturn as “optimism is fading alongside sinking oil and gas prices.” CSM reports that investors have “particularly soured on SunEdison’s strategy of developing new wind and solar farms and then selling them to the companies it spun off,” TerraForm Power and TerraForm Global as neither has returned reliable dividends. Similarly, NRG Energy’s green spin-off NRG Yield was downgraded on Tuesday by Moody’s as its 30 percent drop in share price would limit new project investments, CSM reports. “Despite wavering confidence, analysts predict renewables will weather this downturn,” CSM adds.

NEW MEXICO TO HAVE THREE NEW UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR FACILITIES BY END OF 2016. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K) reports that by the end of next year, “New Mexico will be producing another 165 megawatts of solar electricity from three large-scale generating facilities scheduled to come online near Roswell and Deming.” Southwest Public Service Co. “signed a long-term power purchase agreement with Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources to build and operate two 70 MW solar facilities near Roswell that, once operational in 2017, will be the largest such solar photovoltaic facilities in the state.” Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association “also announced a deal, with D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments LLC and Denver-based TurningPoint Energy for a 25-MW solar facility in Luna County, about 25 miles northeast of Deming.” The projects are attracting “attention in the renewable energy industry because of the low-cost electricity they will provide.”

DUKE ENERGY SAYS NEW SENSORS LEAD TO BIG SAVINGS AT PLANTS. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Downey, Subscription Publication, 68K) reports “a four-year, \$80 million Duke Energy project” that deploys “sensors for key power plant equipment is nearing \$15 million in maintenance savings for the company this year.” The project is called Duke’s “Smart Generation” program. Duke “has put sensors on equipment such as boilers, turbines, generators, large pumps, transformers and other important power plant

hardware. It is designed to avoid problems by catching them early." Duke's Michael Reid said, "It allows us to be more and more creative in solving problems."

TEXAS WIND POWER BOOM MAY SLOW AS TAX BREAK EXPIRES. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/13, Blum, 884K) reports that as Texas tax breaks for wind projects expire, the state may lose its place as the top state for wind generation.

GERMAN SOLAR CONTRACTOR TO ENTER POWER PRODUCER BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Downey, Subscription Publication, 68K) reports that Germany's Conergy "has made North Carolina ground zero for its strategy to move from being a construction contractor for solar projects to being an independent power producer that owns and operates solar projects." A total of 28 megawatts of solar capacity will be sold to Duke Energy with additional projects under development. Yann Brandt, Conergy's regional head for the Americas, says the company is also looking at California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida.

GLOBAL WIND INSTALLATIONS POISED TO DOUBLE IN FIVE YEARS. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/12, Morales, 2.66M) reports that "cumulative wind-energy installations worldwide may double within five years as falling costs help producers compete with conventional power." According to the Global Wind Energy Council, wind developers installed a cumulative total of about 370 gigawatts worldwide by the end of last year. Bloomberg reports that to double installations in the next five years, developers would have to add 74 gigawatts a year, over last year's record 51.5 gigawatts added.

SUNEDISON TO EXIT BRITAIN AS GOVERNMENT CUTS ROOFTOP SOLAR SUBSIDIES. The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Reed, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that following the decision by Britain's Conservative government under Prime Minister David Cameron to cut rooftop solar subsidies for new installations by as much as 87 percent after January, SunEdison this week parted ways with its UK partner the Mark Group and said it would soon end the free installation program. CEO Ahmad Chatila told investors on Wednesday that SunEdison would "de-emphasize or exit" countries including Britain, while focusing on the United States, Latin America, India and China. In a statement, SunEdison said that "we are extremely disappointed that the draconian policy proposals made by the government" will "essentially eliminate the solar" market in Britain. The Times reports that in the government's view "it is time for the nascent industry to start surviving on its own" and the cuts are "part of a broad trimming back of renewable-energy programs."

Onshore Energy Development:

EMERGENCY PLAN ADDRESSES THREAT FROM UNDERGROUND FIRE NEAR NUCLEAR WASTE SITE. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/10, 2.46M) reported on the Westlake and Bridgeton Landfills near St. Louis where two things lurk "that should never meet: a slow-burning fire and a cache of Cold War-era nuclear waste, separated by no more than 1,200 feet." Government officials have "quietly adopted an emergency plan in case the smoldering embers ever reach the waste, a potentially 'catastrophic event' that could send up a plume of radioactive smoke over a densely populated area near the city's main airport." While the landfill fire has been burning "since at least 2010, the plan for a worst-case scenario was developed only a year ago" and not publicized until last week. Landfill operator Republic Services "downplayed any risk." The piece adds that "interceptor wells – underground structures that capture below-surface gasses – and other safeguards are in place to keep the fire and the nuclear waste separate."

ANALYSIS: NUCLEAR POWER MAY OFFER SOLUTION FOR MICHIGAN'S CARBON EMISSION GOALS. A [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/11, Reindl, 910K) analysis questioned whether the future of Michigan's low-carbon energy drive lies in nuclear, rather than solar or wind, power. Currently, the state generates 23 percent of its power "from just four commercial reactors," which the Free Press indicates is "more than double the much-heralded 10% figure achieved across the state from renewable sources such as wind, biomass and solar." The article also highlights DTE's recent approval to construct a new "1,560-megawatt Fermi 3 reactor next to Fermi 2 near Monroe," even though they have not yet moved forward. Yet, hydraulic fracking is noted as a more inexpensive option that is currently hindering a potential move toward increasing the state's nuclear capabilities.

US SHALE OIL INDUSTRY CAN PROFOUNDLY IMPACT GLOBAL OIL MARKET. The [Financial Times](#) (10/12, Dale, Subscription Publication, 1.37M) reported that US shale oil can reshape the global market as it responds quickly to price changes, is exposed to capriciousness of banking, and introduced the industry to manufacturing-like processes.

Offshore Energy Development:

TUSCALOOSA NEWS SAYS OIL COMPANIES HAVE LEARNED FROM BP SPILL. The [Tuscaloosa \(AL\) News](#) (10/11, 78K) editorializes that “various lawsuits from individuals, businesses and stockholders of BP...remain in line to be adjudicated,” but the “\$20 billion final agreement between five Gulf states – including Alabama – and BP to settle all civil claims against the oil company” is “a major penalty that will, as Attorney General Loretta Lynch said, ‘inspire BP and its peers to take every measure necessary to ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again.’” The News says “oil companies since the Deepwater Horizon spill have made enormous strides in safety, to where they say disasters of this scale are less likely to happen moving forward.”

Vitter Comments On BP Settlement. The [Bayou Buzz \(LA\)](#) (10/12, 4K) reports Sen. David Vitter last week issued a statement regarding the \$20.8 billion BP settlement for civil claims over the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Vitter said, “It’s vitally important to hold BP accountable for the damage and ongoing consequences of the spill, especially when Louisiana relies so heavily on our coastal resources. As we look further into the details of the BP settlement, rest assured I will continue fighting to make sure Louisianians receive what we are justly owed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:***Bureau of Land Management:***

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE SPEAKS ON NEW BIKE TRAIL MAP APP. The [Phoenix Business Journal](#) (10/13, Totten, Subscription Publication, 5K) reported in its “Business” blog that the US Bureau of Land Management named the Black Canyon Trail, described as “an 80-mile ride an hour north of downtown Phoenix,” as one of the “top 20 mountain biking trails in the US.” The BLM “has created a national map detailing notable mountain biking trails.” BLM Director Neil Komze is quoted as saying “The BLM is proud to manage some of the world’s best mountain bike trails ...This new, mobile-friendly tool will help the public get a glimpse of these amazing places and plan their rides.”

NEVADA PURCHASES LAND TO TRIPLE SIZE OF CAVE LAKE STATE PARK. Relying on information in the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/13, 22K), the [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the Nevada Division of State Lands purchased “2,980 acres in eastern Nevada surrounding Cave Lake State Park near Ely” from the US Forest Service, and will triple the size of the park. The article notes that the state has proposed acquisitions of two other land tracts that are both administered by the Bureau of Land Management. This report is also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, 344K), and on the website of [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\) Las Vegas](#) (10/12, 12K).

CONGRESSMAN SEEKS GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT TO PREVENT URANIUM ORE MINING. The [AP](#) (10/13, Fonseca) reports that US Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) announced plans to propose a bill to create Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument among one million acres rich in uranium ore that are banned from the filing of new mining claims: a regulation that Grijalva wants to make permanent. Grijalva admitted the measure would probably not be granted a Congressional hearing, but aims to have “a template ready that President Barack Obama could consider signing as a proclamation for a new monument.” While Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye “said the tribe has struggled with the effects of uranium mining” for decades, “Arizona Game and Fish Commission and sportsmen’s groups criticized the effort to sidestep Congress and questioned the expense of running a national monument.” The US Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service oversee much of the land in question.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K) also carries this story.

SENATE CONSIDERS BILL TO PROTECT LAND IN SOUTHERN CA. [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reported on testimony at Thursday’s hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, which considered a bill by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) “to protect 1.4 million acres of deserts, mountains and woodlands in Southern California.” An elected San Bernardino County representative criticized the bill, arguing S. 414 would “cut off mineral development and stifle a key economic sector,” while a conservationist argued the measure “would bolster tourism and is supported by environmentalists.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS REMOVES UTE WILDFLOWER FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES CANDIDATE LIST. Relying on information in the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/11, 28K), the [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the US Fish and Wildlife Service "removed Sleeping Ute milkvetch from a list of candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act." Despite the wildflower's range that is limited to a certain portion of Ute Mountain Ute Tribal land, "the oil and gas development that once seemed to threaten the species is no longer expected to occur" there, according to a recent survey by the tribe that found "nearly five times as many of the wildflowers as found in 2000."

This story was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/12, 344K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN CREATURES, WILL REVIEW POLAR BEAR'S STATUS. [The Hill](#) (10/10, Devaney, 471K) reported on new standards promulgated in Tuesday's edition of the Federal Register. On Friday, the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed additional "protections for several animals endemic to American Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean," including "two types of American Samoan land snails, a distinct segment of friendly ground-doves, the Pacific sheath-tailed bat and the mao." In addition, the FWS said it "will conduct a five-year status review of the polar bear to determine whether it should be listed as an endangered species," following up on a 2008 review of the animal.

SURVEY SUGGESTS HIGH POLITICAL INFLUENCE AT FWS. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/13, Zaffos, 74K) reported that a recent survey by the Union of Concerned Scientists found "73 percent of Fish and Wildlife scientists say political influence is too high at the agency and a relative majority believes their office is less effective than it was five years ago." The article suggested US Fish and Wildlife Service officials may have been unduly influenced in their decision that the "greater sage grouse does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR FLORIDA PLANTS, FRESHWATER MUSSEL. The [AP](#) (10/11) reported the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed protection of the Suwannee moccasinshell musselin in FL and GA as they are in decline due to "pollution, sedimentation and reduced water flows." Officials are paraphrased as saying "the moccasinshell's decline serves as a warning about the decline of clean water in the region." The FWS also proposed protections for five FL plants, including the Florida bristle fern. The [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/11, 344K) also carried this story.

FWS INVESTIGATES FATAL CALIFORNIA CONDOR SHOOTING IN AZ. The [AP](#) (10/10) reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced its investigation of Thursday's "fatal shooting of an endangered California condor in northern Arizona." The Arizona Game and Fish Department said it conducted a preliminary investigation. This story was also carried by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/10, 2.28M) and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/10, 259K).

National Park Service:

CRITICS FIGHT MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL OVER FEARS OF NPS REGULATION. The [AP](#) (10/11, Sharp) reported on criticism to Burt's Bees founder Roxanne Quimby's proposal to donate "70,000 acres of woodlands — and millions of dollars — for a Maine Woods National Park," which a recent poll showed local residents disfavor two to one. While supporters of the proposal assert it would create jobs in an economically depressed area, opponents assert National Park Service regulations such as those aimed at protecting park vistas could limit industries in surrounding towns.

This report was also carried by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/11, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/11, Sharp, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/11, 2.28M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/11, Sharp, 1.06M), and the website of [ABC News](#) (10/11, Sharp, 3.97M).

NPS FINDS MAN DEAD IN TENT IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (10/11) reported that on Saturday the National Park Service said it found a man dead in his tent in Rocky Mountain National Park. He was found "in a backcountry camping site on the west side of the park in northern Colorado." This report was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/11, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/11, 344K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/11, 259K).

NPS SEARCHES FOR MISSING DIVER IN LAKE POWELL, AZ. The [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the National Park Service and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office in Page, AZ continue to search for 29-year-old William "Billy" Burke of Wyoming "who disappeared after he jumped from a 90-foot cliff into Lake Powell." Although

"Bystanders immediately searched for the man," the AP says "they couldn't find him." Due to the water's depth, "a remotely operated vehicle has been brought in to help the search." This story was also carried by the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/11, 1.12M) and [KNXV-TV Phoenix](#) (10/12, 103K) on its website.

PARKS FOUNDATION CONTEST WINNERS VISIT CO NATIONAL PARKS. The [AP](#) (10/13, Press) reports that the National Park Foundation is awarding eight winners of a contest to help promote the National Park Service's "Find Your Park" campaign with a trip to Colorado this week. As the NPS celebrates its centennial next year, the AP paraphrases the foundation as expressing a goal to "make sure parks stay relevant for the next 100 years." This story was also carried by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/12, 787K), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/12, 1.06M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, 344K).

SENATORS PROPOSE STUDY THAT COULD MAKE EVERS HOME PART OF NPS. The [AP](#) (10/9, Pettus) reported that on Friday Mississippi senators Thad Cochran (R) and Roger Wicker (R) said they proposed legislation to "authorize a study on the national significance of" the home of Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers, "as a step toward making it part of the Park Service," which the AP noted would "bring a steadier source of money from Washington." The article provided background on Evers, who "led voter registration drives and challenged Mississippi's staunchly segregated society." This report was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, Pettus, 2.28M) and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/9, Pettus, 1.06M).

US Geological Survey:

SERIES OF SMALL EARTHQUAKES RECORDED IN NORTHERN OKLAHOMA. The [AP](#) (10/13) reports several "small earthquakes have been recorded across northern Oklahoma following two moderate earthquakes in the area on Saturday." USGS "reported that nine quakes ranging in magnitude from 2.5 to 3.7 were recorded between 5:07 p.m. Saturday and 5:27 a.m. Sunday." The most recent "seismic activity comes after a 4.5 magnitude temblor Saturday afternoon near Cushing and a 4.4 magnitude quake Saturday morning southwest of Medford." The AP adds that "Cushing is where the world's most important crude oil storage hub is located and it is used to settle futures contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange." The Oklahoma Geological Survey has said it's "likely that many recent earthquakes in the state have been triggered by the injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas drilling operations." [Reuters](#) (10/11, Wade) also provides coverage of this story.

EDITORIAL: ARCTIC MAY BECOME TOO COST PROHIBITIVE FOR INDUSTRY. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (10/9, 15K) editorialized that the Arctic may "become too cost prohibitive for new exploration and industry," and jeered so-called "kayaktavists" for attempting to stop a Royal Dutch Shell PLC drilling rig from leaving a Seattle port, while failing to use "vessels that are at least made of recycled plastic, if not made of wood." The US Geological Survey is cited as estimating "the Arctic holds an oil and gas bonanza."

Top National News:

COVERAGE OF OBAMA INTERVIEW FOCUSES ON CLINTON EMAIL COMMENTS. The President's interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," particularly his comments on Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was Secretary of State, continues to generate media coverage, with some reports casting his remarks as a defense of Clinton.

Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News](#) (10/12, story 2, 3:15, Muir, 5.84M) that the President "had some strong words for Clinton and her troubles with that private email server." Under the headline, "Obama Defends Clinton's Use Of Private Email Server, Sort Of," the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/12, Wamer, 455K) highlights a number of the President's comments during the interview, but leads its coverage with his discussion of Clinton's email server, noting that he said her use of the server while Secretary of State was "a mistake" but "didn't endanger national security." The Monitor also noted that the President "denied prior knowledge of the private email server" and when asked about his Administration's "prosecution of individuals with classified material on personal computers, the president said he didn't think with Clinton there was an intent to 'hide something or to squirrel away information.'"

A [USA Today](#) (10/13, Cummings, 5.23M) story also focuses primarily on his comments about Clinton's emails, reporting that the President said, "I can tell you that this is not a situation in which America's national security was endangered," adding that "it is important for Clinton to answer questions on the subject 'to the satisfaction of the American public. And they can make their own judgment.'" The President also argued that "the political scandal around it has been 'ginned up' by her Republican opponents." [Western Journalism](#) (10/13, Huston,

303K) similarly noted on its website that while the President “conceded...that the American people have every right to consider whether Clinton’s actions were appropriate,” he “added that the political season is fueling the fire.”

Some commentators Monday evening also cast the President’s comments as a defense of Clinton. For example, Paul Begala said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/12, 686K) that Clinton “needs to send him a bouquet of roses. That was as calm a defense – a lot of Democrats panic and my people are kind of weak that way and here is the President of the United States, the most beloved Democrat in America saying, ‘Everybody calm down. National security was not compromised.’”

Brianna Keilar said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/12, 554K), “I do think for Hillary Clinton I think this is a good thing, especially in that the President also said she didn’t pose a national security risk. So she’s got some backup there. He’s also repeating some of what she said. But what took a long time...for her to come to – I think that apology and that she’s going to continue to explain to the American people. I think this is him in a way sort of keeping her on track with that as her strategy going forward.”

Other commentators took a different track. For example, Eric Bolling said on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (10/12, 408K), “I think he destroyed her. I think he threw her right under the bus. ... At first Hillary Clinton said that they knew what was going on. He just said right up front, we didn’t know what she did was wrong. She already apologized for it. Later on he gets to, hey, but there’s nothing to see here...but I will tell you I was shocked he went that forceful right off the bat at her.” Similarly, Carol Lee said on [MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (10/12, 487K) that the President “seemed to go out of his way not to do her any favors with his answer. He said he wasn’t aware that she had a private server while she was Secretary of State. ... I think he made pretty clear that what happened was not something that he approves of and he also gave a classic answer deflecting to the American people to decide whether or not what she did passes muster with them.”

Kevin Madden noted on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/12, 686K) that the President “did say Hillary Clinton has to answer these questions to the satisfaction of the American public and I think to this point she has not. He’s not the arbiter here. The ultimate arbiter I think will be the public when they render electoral judgment on Hillary Clinton but also the investigators. There are investigations going on right now. They are going to decide whether or not in a non-partisan way whether or not there were violations or there was some wrongdoing here and that’s ultimately where the test will be.”

RNC Ad Blasts Clinton Over Email Scandal. [McClatchy](#) (10/12, Clark, 28K) reports that as Democrats prepare for the party’s first presidential primary debate, the RNC has launched a new 30-second TV ad titled, “Not Telling Us The Truth...Again,” which “bash[es] Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email account.” According to the RNC, “the five-figure ad buy will run on national cable and online, with a digital component directly targeting social media supporters of Clinton’s Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders.” It comes “as Clinton’s poll numbers have dropped and as she has launched her own cable TV ad highlighting House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy’s claim that her poll numbers plunged because of the Republican-led Benghazi committee’s work.”

Gowdy Denies Fired Committee Aide’s Claims. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/12, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 7.86M), [Andrea Mitchell](#) reported that Rep. Trey Gowdy, chair of the Benghazi investigation committee, said that fired committee aide Brad Podliska’s claim that the investigation turned into a partisan witch hunt against Hillary Clinton is a “lie,” and that Podliska “was a lousy employee” who “mishandled classified information” and wouldn’t “do what his supervisors instructed him to do.” In response to Gowdy’s claims, Podliska’s attorneys on Monday said Gowdy “violated laws by talking about a confidential employment dispute.”

Jake Tapper reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/12, 554K) that Podliska is threatening to sue the committee in part “for objecting to what he calls a partisan hyperfocus on” Clinton. The committee denies that, stating Podliska has “now run to the press with his new salacious allegations,” after the committee refused his demands for money.

Eight Of Nine Benghazi Hearings Canceled This Year. Meanwhile, [Nancy Cordes](#) reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/12, story 2, 2:35, Pelley, 5.08M) that CBS News obtained internal documents showing that while the committee originally planned to hold nine hearings this year, only one is scheduled, “with Clinton as the lone witness later this month.” Cordes reported that Republicans say the other eight were scrapped “because they have had difficulty procuring some of the relevant documents from the Obama Administration.”

Clinton Aide Negotiated With Abu Dhabi For NYU While At State. The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, A1,

Helderman, 6.76M) reports on its front page that during her first four months as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's chief of staff at the State Department, Cheryl D. Mills also "worked part time at New York University, negotiating with officials in Abu Dhabi to build a campus in that Persian Gulf city." Mills, whose work at the State Department was unpaid, was "officially designated as a temporary expert-consultant," which "allowed her to continue to collect outside income while serving as chief of staff." The Post calls the arrangement "another example of how Clinton as secretary allowed close aides to conduct their public work even as they performed jobs benefiting private interests," adding that the situation "raises questions about how one of the State Department's top employees set boundaries between her public role and a private job that involved work on a project funded by a foreign government."

ADMINISTRATION PLANS "MAJOR CHANGES" TO HEALTHCARE.GOV. In what the [New York Times](#) (10/13, Pear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says is at least a tacit acknowledgment of "the difficulties of some health care consumers," the Administration is planning to make "major changes to HealthCare.gov" in order to make it easier for consumers to find insurance plans in which their doctors are participating and to predict their healthcare costs for the next year. This, as officials are expecting that many consumers currently in ACA networks will have to switch plans and find new doctors due to "substantial premium increases coming in some states in 2016." According to the Times, "new features of HealthCare.gov will allow consumers to type in the names of their doctors, prescription drugs and preferred hospitals, and see which plans cover them, administration officials said."

OBAMA LAMENTS "US VERSUS THEM" MENTALITY AMONG SOME US CHRISTIANS. The [New York Review of Books](#) (10/12, 5K) website ran the first half of President Obama's September 14 conversation in Des Moines, Iowa with novelist Marilynne Robinson, one of the President's favorite writers. The transcript runs more than 3,900 words, and the remainder of the conversation will appear in the next issue. Media attention to the interview is limited, with wire sources and national newspapers mainly just noting that the interview was released – if they report on it at all – and saying that it was the latest unusual media move by the President. (Four sources mention his interview earlier this year with comedian Marc Maron, and several mention other appearances in non-traditional media.)

What coverage there is focuses largely on an exchange between the President and Robinson on faith and Christianity, which drew the attention of online conservative media. The talk also drew attention on Twitter, where [it was trending](#) Monday. Elizabeth Bruenig of the [New Republic](#) [called it](#) the "interviewer/interviewee match-up of the century," while CNN's Brian Stelter [termed it](#) "riveting," and HarperCollins executive editor Calvert Morgan [called Obama](#) "a president with the mind, soul, and humility to interview" the writer. But Carlos Lozada of the [Washington Post](#) [tweeted that](#) Obama showed "a brutally bleak view of religion in America" that [may have been](#) "another version of his 'cling to their guns and religion' thing."

[The Hill](#) (10/12, Fabian, 471K) reports that the President "lamented the rancorous, divided state of US politics" during the "unusual discussion." The Hill, as do many other outlets, quotes Obama as asking, "How do you reconcile the idea of faith being really important to you and you caring a lot about taking faith seriously with the fact that, at least in our democracy and our civic discourse, it seems as if folks who take religion the most seriously sometimes are also those who are suspicious of those not like them?" Robinson replied that "those 'turning in on themselves – and God knows, arming themselves' against an 'imagined other,' are not 'taking their Christianity seriously.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/13, Chasmar, 344K) reports that in the interview, Obama also "suggested that Christians who take their religion the most seriously often adopt an 'us versus them' mentality," and later in the interview said "that part of what makes America great is 'this nagging dissatisfaction that spurs us on.'" [Mediaite](#) (10/13, Feldman, 251K) similarly says that "as they spoke about religion, Obama brought up an 'us versus them' mentality amongst some Christians," a quote also carried by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/13, Rushing, 5.59M) on its website.

Jason Howerton of [The Blaze](#) (10/12, 1.66M) says "it was Obama's line of questioning about Robinson's Christian faith was grabbing people's attention on Monday." Conservative news site [WND](#) (10/13, 152K) says the interview "took a strange turn" with the discussion of faith, which WND calls "his comment on devout Christians." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/12, Guest, 375K) took a different tack, focusing on the President's claim "that 'Fox News and conservative media' make him 'seem scary.'"

The [AP](#) (10/13, 530K) said in its brief report that the two discussed "faith, democracy, education and writing," while the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Jaffe, 6.76M) reports that faith was a major topic, but does not delve into it. Instead, the Post calls the interview "the most highbrow, at times the weirdest and, in moments, the most

revealing” of Obama’s recent “unconventional media moves.” However, the Post does not say what was weird about the discussion.

[TIME](#) (10/12, 19.55M) says “the conversation focused on faith, politics and their intersection in Robinson’s work, which has long concerned itself with Christian thought,” and the President’s questions “revealed nearly as much about him as it did about his interviewee.” Time says Obama disclosed that “his outsider status during his first presidential campaign allowed him to connect with small-town America,” and that “one of the biggest struggles of his political career has been bridging the gap between ‘our common life and our political life.’”

[CNN Money](#) (10/12, 2.15M) reports on its website that Obama has “interviewed David Simon, the creator of HBO’s ‘The Wire,’ on the enforcement of drug laws and over-policing” and science educator Bill Nye “on the dangers of climate change,” and continued his unusual role as an interviewer with Robinson. CNN Money says Obama’s “questions to Robinson illuminate his views on policy and the world around him,” including that “being a good Christian is hard” and that government can and should have a positive role in Americans’ lives.

[Slate](#) (10/12, 1.38M) writes that in the interview, “we encounter a lovely meshing of two like sensibilities: Obama, a creature of grassroots politicking, has a touch of” the “serenity” and “preference for the simple and the true” of one of Robinson’s best-known protagonists, while Robinson, “in her musings on faith, channels a blend of idealism and realism that feels distinctly Obamian.”

[Entertainment Weekly](#) (10/12, Holub, 11.48M) reports on its website that the two went “back-and-forth a bit about the value of pessimism in American culture.” Emma Cueto of women’s culture and news site [Bustle](#) (10/12, 2.33M) writes that Robinson “seems very much to admire Obama and the difficult political situation he has to navigate. Both are clearly deep thinkers, and their conversation is fascinating.” The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (10/13, 310K) has a brief and straightforward item on the publication of the interview.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“How To Keep People In Health Plans.”* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/13, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) considers the reasons behind the “sharp drop earlier this year in the number of people enrolled in health insurance plans purchased through federal and state marketplaces established under the Affordable Care Act.” Some people were confused by “various notices telling them what information they need to submit to obtain subsidies,” while many cited cost as a big factor. The Times calls for more states to expand Medicaid, along with “stronger outreach efforts” to help people understand what documents they need to provide.

“Is The Pentagon Telling The Truth About Afghanistan?” A [New York Times](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says that new data from the UN “on the military advances by a resurgent Taliban is alarming for what it says about the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan — and what it suggests about the American military’s honesty about what is happening there.” The Times argues that “as long as this country has troops and money invested in Afghanistan, Congress and the public need to hear the truth about how the mission is going.”

“A Deal To Fix The Subways In New York.” A [New York Times](#) (10/13, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial.

WASHINGTON POST. *“Iran’s Ludicrous Conviction Of Jason Rezaian.”* In an editorial on Iran’s conviction of journalist Jason Rezaian, the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, 6.76M) laments the “showcase for the opacity, the brazen disregard for the rule of law and, ultimately, the sheer cruelty of Iran’s Islamic regime,” and adds that the entire “travesty ought to shame the Iranian government into releasing the journalist.”

“Will Democratic Candidates Offer True Progress?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, 6.76M) argues that while the “net effect” of the “left-wing populism” being espoused by Sen. Bernie Sanders has been to push Democrats’ “reigning ideology leftward,” the “challenge for [Hillary] Clinton and her fellow candidates, starting Tuesday night, is to stand up for policy nuance in a party whose voter base seems impatient with it.” The Post opines that the “candidates who distinguish themselves” during Tuesday’s Democratic debate “will be those capable of explaining, persuasively, how they will convert their grand promises into tangible progress. Populism may get votes; pragmatism gets results.”

“A Stinging Loss For The Washington Football Team.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Board, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Mullahs Say Thanks." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) casts Iran's missile test as evidence of Iran viewing the recently reached nuclear deal as a sign of weakness on the West's part. The Journal notes that Friday was journalist Jason Rezaian's 444th day of captivity – the exact number of days US diplomats spent as hostages in 1979 and 1980 – and that the announcement of his conviction was surely a sign. The missile test, meanwhile, is cast as an indication that Iran will simply not abide by provisions it doesn't like, and that it believes it will be able to act with impunity.

"Rubio's Family Leave Gambit." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says in an editorial that Marco Rubio has crafted a strong foreign policy agenda, but his domestic stances have been less encouraging. The Journal says Rubio has offered proposals on family leave and tax credits that echo the Democrats, rather than offering a principled conservative alternative.

"A Bad Tax Brainstorm." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) decries the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's proposals to combat "base erosion and profit shifting," or BEPS, arguing that the OECD proposals are based on the premise that the world's fiscal problems are due to insufficient tax collection, rather than weak growth.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- [Weary Vegas Seems Apropos For This Debate](#)
- [USC Dismisses Troubled Coach](#)
- [Tehran Mourns Its Key Liaison In Syria](#)
- [Divisive Symbol](#)
- [Tesla SUV Buyers Can Tap Loophole For Hefty Tax Break](#)

Wall Street Journal:

- [EMC Takeover Marks Return Of Michael Dell](#)
- [Barclays Preparing To Name Jes Staley Its CEO](#)
- [Libya's "Masked Men" Hunt Human Smugglers](#)
- [The Two Parties Aren't Crazy, Just Changed](#)

New York Times:

- [For-Profit Colleges Accused Of Fraud Still Receive US Funds](#)
- [Deadly Ankara Attack Not Enough To Unify A Polarized Turkey](#)
- [Latest Unease On Right: Ryan Is Too Far Left](#)
- [US-Made Weaponry Is Turning Syrian Conflict Into Proxy War With Russia](#)
- [Nudes Are Old News At Playboy](#)
- [Hazing And Drinking Deaths At Asian-American Fraternities Raise Concerns](#)
- [Confrontation With Black Partygoers Leads To Gang Charges For White Group](#)

Washington Post:

- [At Home, Ryan Walks A Fine Line](#)
- [Afghan Decision Tests Obama](#)
- [Democrats' Debate: Dullness As A Virtue?](#)
- [A Sense Of Awe](#)
- [Clinton Aide Also Had Job Dealing With Abu Dhabi](#)
- [Iran Media: Post Reporter Rezaian Is Convicted](#)

Financial Times:

- [Dell Agrees \\$63Bn Acquisition Of EMC](#)
- [London Plays Up The Pomp For Xi's Visit](#)

Washington Times:

- [Obama Deflects Blame For Botched Syria Plan](#)
- [New Stage, Different Clinton](#)

Videos Stun Customers Of Planned Parenthood
Advocates Gain Steam To Allow Guns On Campus
GOP Looks To Blackburn As Candidate For Speaker
Tricky Trade Issues Await South Korea's Park On Washington Trip

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Alaska Jet-Cargo Fire; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; 2016 Politics-President Obama Thoughts; 2016 Politics-Biden; Texas-Councilman Tased; Cleveland Police Shooting-Investigation; Memphis-Police Officer Shot; Iran-Washington Post Reporter Convicted; Wikileaks Founder-Ecuador; Lottery Scandal; Red Wine-Diabetes; Adopted South Korean Sisters Reunited.
CBS: South Carolina-Flooding Recovery; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Committee; Turkey-Suicide Bombers; Blue Bell-Listeria Charges; Cleveland Police Shooting-Investigation; President Nixon-Vietnam War.
NBC: 2016 Politics-Democrats; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Committee; Milwaukee-Gun Control Trial; Southwest Flights-System Errors; Texas Police-Tasing Incident; Iran-Washington Post Reporter Convicted; Zimbabwe-Lion Hunting Incident; LinkedIn-Unlimited Employee Vacation Time; San Diego Wedding-President Obama; Houston Baseball-George HW Bush Pitch; Adopted South Korea Sisters Reunited.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 7 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Iran-Washington Post Reporter; Turkey-Suicide Bombers Identification.
CBS: South Carolina-Flooding Recovery Efforts; South Carolina Football Coach Resignation; MLB Playoffs-New York Mets; 2016 Politics-GOP Leaders; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate.
NPR: South Carolina-Flooding Recovery Efforts; Arkansas-Lethal Injection Drug Investigation; Israeli-Palestinian Violence; China Trade Report-Export Decrease; Japan-American Troops Relocated; South Africa-Sudan President War Crimes; Zimbabwe-Lion Hunting Incident.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No public schedule announced.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 9 Oct – 19 Oct

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 9 Oct – 19 Oct

Other: 12:00 PM Congressional Fireside Chat with Co-Founder & President of Eventbrite Julia Hartz – The Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee and the Women's High Tech Coalition host a fireside chat about re-imagining the workplace with Co-Founder & President of Eventbrite, Julia Hartz. The event is a continuation of the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee Speakers Series, which brings Internet leaders and luminaries to the Capitol Complex to share their expertise with Internet policy leaders in Congress
Location: Rayburn House Office Building Room 2237, 200 D St SW, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org
<https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC>

11:30 AM Assistant Secretary of State Thomas-Greenfield meets Congo Ambassador to the U.S. – Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield meets Republic of the Congo Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Serge Mombouli
Location: State Department, Washington, DC www.state.gov
<https://twitter.com/StateDept>

3:00 PM Brookings event on the Central African Republic – 'Addressing crisis, supporting recovery: The Central African Republic at a crossroads' Brookings Institution Africa Growth Initiative discussion, on immediate efforts to stabilize CAR and long-term strategies for the country's economic recovery. Central African Republic Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Stanislas Moussa-Kembe delivers remarks, while panel features U.S. Special Representative for the Central African Republic Amb. W. Stuart Symington, Mercy Corps Vice President of Global Engagement & Policy Andrea Koppel, and Search for Common Ground Executive Vice President Sandra Melone
Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

Tuesday, Oct. 13 – Wednesday, Oct. 14 DHS Secretary Johnson addresses Association of the U.S. Army – Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition. Day two speakers include Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Assistant Secretaries of the Army Katherine Hammack and Heidi Shyu, and other U.S. Army officials Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC
<http://www.ausa.org> <https://twitter.com/AusaNational>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “They’re saying now that if Hillary Clinton actually became president, she probably wouldn’t have Bill be her first gentleman. It’s rumored that her daughter Chelsea or her top aide could be named first lady. They still have to come up with a title for Bill. And here’s just a few options they’re looking at. For example, he can go with first lady’s man.”

Seth Meyers: “Senator Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump attended a conference today hosted by a bipartisan group targeting undecided voters. Really, really undecided voters. Can’t decide, the guy with the gold leaf golf course or the guy who looks like he lives in his Volvo?”

Seth Meyers: “Dr. Ben Carson made news last week by saying that the holocaust could have been averted if European Jews had had guns. Though I’m pretty sure what he meant to say was, ‘I don’t want to be president.’”

Seth Meyers: “The White House yesterday released First Lady Michelle Obama’s Spotify playlist, which features Beyonce, Demi Lovato, and Esperanza Spalding. While Joe Biden’s playlist is just ‘Now That’s What I Call Train Sounds: Volume 12.’”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 17, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 6:59 AM

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Continuing Coverage Of Designation Of National Monuments In California.](#)
- + [Philanthropist Donates \\$18.5 Million To Renovate Lincoln Memorial.](#)
- + [Cliven Bundy Denied Bail In 2014 Standoff Case.](#)
- + [Next Supreme Court Justice Will Have Impact On Environmental Law.](#)
- + [Group Seeks "Mineral Withdrawal" To Stop Possible Copper Mine.](#)
- + [Photos Depict Lives During The Great Depression.](#)
- + [WSJournal: House Must Hold EPA Accountable For Mine Disaster.](#)
- + [Peteman: Spending Time In National Parks Provides Tranquility.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Deadline Nears For Public Comments On Shabbona Bingo Plan.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Assistant Secretary Kia'aina To Host Panel Discussion On Self Determination.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [\\$2M Funneled To Eastern New Mexico Pipeline.](#)
- + [Tumalo Irrigation District Adds Fee For Spotted Frog Litigation.](#)
- + [Agencies Focus On Saving Winter-Run Salmon.](#)
- + [Opinion: Southern Delivery System Required To Meet Contractual Agreements.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Scientists Trying To Harness Energy Of Gulf Stream.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [BLM Holds Public Meeting On Methane Emissions.](#)
- + [Wyoming DEQ Defends Coal Mining Deal.](#)
- + [Sierra Club Files Challenge Against Oil, Gas Activities In Oklahoma.](#)
- + [Climate Activist Bids For Oil, Gas Land In Utah.](#)
- + [BLM Set To Auction Six Oil And Gas Parcels In May.](#)
- + [Comment Period Closing For Trapper, Colowyo Mines.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Comments On Three Potential Fall River Oil Lease Sites.](#)
- + [Bullish Analyst Changes Stance On Coal Markets.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Two States Ask Court To Reverse Interior Offshore Drilling Rule.](#)

- + [Court Blocks Use Of BP Restoration Funds For Gulf State Park Conference Center.](#)
- + [US Rep. Buddy Carter Continues Support For Offshore Drilling.](#)
- + [Wooden Surfboard Contains Signatures Opposing Offshore Drilling In The Atlantic.](#)
- + [CSA Ocean To Receive NOPP Deepwater Canyons Award.](#)
- + [Jury Selected For Trial Of Ex-BP Rig Supervisor.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Wild Horse Advocates Raise Concerns About BLM Adoption Proposal.](#)
- + [Idaho Land Board Approves Agreement With BLM Involving Land Swap.](#)
- + [Bill Introduced To Reopen Permitting Process Of CEMEX Mine.](#)
- + [BLM Criticized For Missing Opportunity On Bullwacker-Cow Creek Access.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Obama's Budget Request Includes \\$1.6B For FWS.](#)
- + [FWS Grant Helps Joins Two Halves Of Negwegon State Park.](#)
- + [Group Moves To Block Import Of Elephants To Zoos.](#)
- + [FWS Considering Transfer Of National Bison Range To Tribes.](#)
- + [Students Create Campus Wildlife Area On Peregrine School Campus.](#)
- + [Fire At Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge 50% Contained.](#)
- + [Public Meeting To Be Held On Manatee Reclassification.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Conservation Groups To Sue FWS Over New Bat Rule.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Fourth Graders Offered Free Access To National Parks.](#)
- + [NPS Designated 34 New Communities As Certified Local Governments In 2015.](#)
- + [NPS Begins Selling Passes Online.](#)
- + [Report Recommends Expanding Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.](#)
- + [Yellowstone National Park Begins Trapping And Slaughter Of Bison.](#)
- + [Thefts Prompt Closures At Mining Sites In Joshua Tree National Park.](#)
- + [Officials Plan To Shoot Utah Mountain Goats.](#)
- + [Water Begins Flowing To Eastern Everglades National Park.](#)
- + [NPS Supports Plan By Lowell To Light Up Canals.](#)
- + [Trail At Saguaro National Park To Be Made Wheelchair Accessible.](#)
- + [Superdome Added To National Register Of Historic Places.](#)
- + [Weir Farm Superintendent To Receive National Park Service's Cultural Resource Stewardship Award.](#)
- + [Silent-Movie Film Studio Seeks Recognition As A Historic Landmark.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of National Park Foundation Field Trip Grants.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of "National Parks Adventure" Film.](#)
- + [NPS Urged To Side With Point Reyes Ranchers.](#)
- + [Portland Press Herald: Maine Officials Shouldn't Shut Down Dialogue With National Park Service.](#)
- + [Weiser: McClintock Misinterprets Muir's Support For Reforming Yosemite.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama Confident Trump Won't Be Elected President.](#)
- + [South Carolina Poll: Clinton Leads Sanders 56%-38%.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that President Obama has used the Antiquities Act "much more ambitiously in his second term, designating last Friday the 1.6-million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument." With the designations, "he's closing in on Clinton, who used the act 22 times to preserve 5.7 million acres." According to the article, "Obama would surpass Clinton if he heeds calls by conservationists to designate the 2.5-million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands in southeast Oregon, an area the size of Yellowstone National Park that's full of stark river gorges and rolling sagebrush hills." But "that proposal is bitterly opposed by many local ranchers and elected officials and could be a tough political sell as communities heal from the 40-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge."

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), Jim Bagley criticizes "President Barack Obama's use of executive authority to create national monuments in the California desert with the Antiquities Act." According to Bagley, "the issue is the essential American value of fairness and open governmental process." He argues that "any decisions on the long term use of these American treasures should involve an open public hearing process for the determination of the highest and best use for those lands."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/17, 98K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) and [AlterNet](#) (2/16, 91K).

Focus Turns To Owyhee Canyonlands. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that "the occupation that ended last week touched raw nerves over the federal government's vast landholdings in Oregon and the restrictions it imposes on grazing, mining and logging." According to the article, "while Harney County residents largely opposed Ammon Bundy's decision to seize the bird sanctuary south of Burns, they sympathized with his critique of federal environmental restrictions – and some vented about the monument proposal, which is located in neighboring Malheur County along the Idaho border."

Meanwhile, the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (2/16, 19K) reports that "ballots for a county-wide referendum on the possible designation of a national monument in Malheur County will be going out this week." According to the article "county voters are being asked to weigh in on whether 2.5 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands in Malheur County be designated as a national monument."

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Opposes Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (2/16) reports that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation opposes the designation of the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The believes "the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state of Arizona already manage the lands in question for multiple uses with wildlife and natural resource conservation as top priorities." They are also concerned the Grand Canyon Watershed and Kaibab National Forest "could be shut down for hunting and recreational shooting without public comment, usurping state management authority."

PHILANTHROPIST DONATES \$18.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/15, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department announced that "a wealthy investor with a history of supporting the National Park Service has donated \$18.5 million to a congressionally chartered charity that will help restore the Lincoln Memorial." The donation by David Rubenstein "to the National Park Foundation is part of a broader effort during the NPS centennial year to raise \$350 million from wealthy donors and corporations to protect and restore prized national treasures like the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., which honors the nation's 16th president." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "David Rubenstein's generous donation will promote and protect one of the Nation's most hallowed symbols and comes at a critical time as our national parks usher in a new century of service. This donation will not only safeguard one of our most visited and recognizable memorials but will preserve Lincoln's legacy for future generations to appreciate."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (2/16, Pearson, 3.96M), the [Daily Caller](#) (2/16, Birr, 443K), [NBC News](#) (2/16, 3.58M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (2/16, 1.1M), the [Bethesda-Chevy Chase \(MD\) Patch](#) (2/16), [Townhall](#) (2/16, 132K), [PopHerald](#) (2/17), and [WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (2/16, 154K).

CLIVEN BUNDY DENIED BAIL IN 2014 STANDOFF CASE. [CNN](#) (2/16, Martinez, 3.96M) reports Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy was denied Bail Tuesday by a judge in an Oregon federal court, saying that Bundy was a flight risk. Bundy was charged with six counts last week relating to this 2014 armed showdown against federal

land managers on the open range where his cattle grazed illegally. He was arrested last week in Portland, "where he flew in support of his sons Ammon and Ryan," who are among 16 people indicted for participating in another, more recent armed standoff against federal authorities at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Federal prosecutors argued that Bundy was "a danger to the community" and he "does not recognize federal courts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, Duara, 4.1M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/16, Sottile, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/16, 853K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/16, Dubois, Ritter, Press, 1.99M), [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/17, 4.92M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois, Press, 881K), [US News & World Report](#) (2/17, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/17, Dubois Ken Ritter |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/17, Dubois, Ritter, 285K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/16, 442K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/16, 2K), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Berger, 3.71M).

Ammon Bundy's Bodyguard Also Denied Bail. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that a federal magistrate ordered Wesley Kjar, a Salt Lake City resident, to be sent to Oregon to face prosecution for participating in the armed takeover at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Magistrate Judge Dustin Pead ruled Kjar is a flight risk and a danger to the community. The Tribune says Kjar "encouraged others to join in the standoff and described himself as the right-hand man of occupation leader Ammon Bundy," according to prosecutor Alicia Cook. She said Kjar served as Bundy's bodyguard and cited an article claiming Kjar "said he would not hesitate to stand between Bundy and a bullet."

BLM In No Hurry To Return To Gold Butte Area. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/16, 479K) reports the Bureau of Land Management will take their time returning to Gold Butte following the arrest of Cliven Bundy and his two sons this week. Southern Nevada BLM field manager Gayle Marrs-Smith informed the Legislative Public Lands Committee the situation remains "fluid" and said no timeline has been established for federal officials to "resume a presence on those public lands where a tense standoff occurred in 2014."

FBI Discovers Human Feces At Cultural Site Near Oregon Refuge. [Reuters](#) (2/17) reports the FBI said it discovered human feces in a trench at an outdoor camping area near a sensitive cultural site with artifacts at the Oregon wildlife refuge that was the site of a recent armed standoff with federal authorities. The filing came after the FBI said it was helping the Burns Paiute Tribe identify damage to the tribe's artifacts and sacred burial grounds at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. It will take evidence teams about three weeks to process the crime scenes at the refuge, according to the document submitted in Oregon federal court on Tuesday.

NEXT SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WILL HAVE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that "with speculation over the next Supreme Court nominee running rampant, potential nominees' records on environmental issues and other hot-button topics are drawing scrutiny." According to the article, "whoever replaces the late Justice Antonin Scalia stands to play a major role in legal battles over high-stakes environmental regulations including U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan, the Clean Water Rule and tightened air restrictions on ozone." Also, "several potentially casting decisive votes on President Obama's environmental legacy in the short-term, the new justice is certain to influence environmental law for decades to come."

GROUP SEEKS "MINERAL WITHDRAWAL" TO STOP POSSIBLE COPPER MINE. The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (2/16, 60K) reports that "a group that formed to fight a possible copper mine in Mazama announced Sunday that it will ask the Secretary of the Interior to prevent all industrial-scale mining on 340,000 acres of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for the next 20 years." According to the article, "ninety Methow Valley business owners signed the Sunday letter to Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to withdraw the national forest lands north and west of Mazama and Winthrop from the establishment of new mineral claims."

PHOTOS DEPICT LIVES DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Murano, 8.98M) "In Sight" photography blog displays a series of restored black and white pictures taken by Roy K. Stryker and his team of photographers in the 1930s for the Farm Security Administration, formerly known as the Resettlement Administration (RA), to "document the hardships and conditions around the country, particularly across the Midwestern states and into California." The RA was created by a 1935 executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt "to help struggling farmers and sharecroppers by providing loans, purchasing depleted farmland and resettling destitute families into government-designed communities." The Post says that Stryker's team produced over 175,000 black and white negatives, 1,610 color transparencies, and several films.

WSJOURNAL: HOUSE MUST HOLD EPA ACCOUNTABLE FOR MINE DISASTER. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn't giving the full story regarding the agency's litany of failures that culminated in

the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn't tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Signal](#) (2/16).

PETERMAN: SPENDING TIME IN NATIONAL PARKS PROVIDES TRANQUILITY. Environmental activist Audrey Peterman writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (2/16, 518K) blog about her confusion why "large numbers of people and huge sections of our infrastructure," including national parks, "will be affected by rising seas within the next 15 years," but Congressional leaders and several presidential candidates "slough off responsibility by professing that they 'do not believe' in climate change." To quell this anxiety, Peterman says she routinely visits national parks, especially Yosemite, to restore her "sunny perspective." She concludes by stating that it is "time for each of us to decide what action we will take to confront the great challenges that face us today," such as climate change and "protecting our public lands system from those who want to degrade it."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE NEARS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SHABBONA BINGO PLAN. The [DeKalb \(IL\) Daily Chronicle](#) (2/16, 24K) reports that "time is running out for residents to voice their opinions to the federal government about the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation's plan to bring a 24-hour bingo hall to the area." The BIA is "in the process of crafting an environmental impact study and an impact statement on the tribe's plans to bring Class II gaming to the area."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO HOST PANEL DISCUSSION ON SELF DETERMINATION. [St. Croix Source](#) (2/16) reports that Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will "host a panel discussion in Washington, D.C., on self determination in U.S. territories, including the Virgin Islands." According to the article, "the hearing will focus on the V.I., Guam and American Samoa, which are listed on the United Nations List of Non-Self-Governing Territories." It is scheduled to be held Feb. 23 in the nation's capital.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (2/16) and the [Pacific News Center](#) (2/16).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

\$2M FUNNELED TO EASTERN NEW MEXICO PIPELINE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the federal government is funneling another \$2 million toward a pipeline project aimed at bringing billions of gallons of water a year to parts of eastern New Mexico." According to the article, "members of the state's congressional delegation announced the funding from the Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday." The article notes that "the price has ballooned to more than \$550 million, and the Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged it could end up costing \$750 million."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clovis \(NM\) News Journal](#) (2/16, 21K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (2/16, 952K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), and [KOAT-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/16, 120K).

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT ADDS FEE FOR SPOTTED FROG LITIGATION. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "the Tumalo Irrigation District has added an additional fee for patrons in anticipation of mounting legal costs associated with recently filed lawsuits over Oregon spotted frog habitat." The district imposed "a \$175 fee this year for each water right account holder to help pay for litigation as well as for public relations during the court case." The BOR, "Tumalo and other irrigation districts are being sued by the Center for Biological Diversity and WaterWatch of Oregon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, Shorack, 285K), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/16, Bulletin, 84K), and the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/16, 98K).

AGENCIES FOCUS ON SAVING WINTER-RUN SALMON. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (2/16, 65K) reports that "members of the Winnemem Wintu tribe believe their lives are intertwined with the salmon — particularly the winter-run chinook salmon." But "fish die-offs in the Sacramento River over the past two years

have many people worried about the winter-run going extinct." The article notes that "federal and state fisheries officials are so concerned with the die off that for the past two years they have taken the unprecedented step of closing the Sacramento River in Redding to fishing from April to August when the salmon are spawning."

OPINION: SOUTHERN DELIVERY SYSTEM REQUIRED TO MEET CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS. In response to a Jan. 26 [article](#) titled, "Council takes hard line on SDS talks," local property owner Dwain Maxwell writes in the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/16, 87K) that the Southern Delivery System should be shut down unless it meets all of its contractual agreements stated in the 1041. Maxwell points out that, for property owners, the 1041 "states that eminent domain can only be taken when proof of need is proven." He believes that the SDS' recent actions trying to obtain property via an eminent domain court shows their "greed" is "just too much to swallow."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SCIENTISTS TRYING TO HARNESS ENERGY OF GULF STREAM. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (2/16, 312K) reports that "scientists are working on harnessing energy from the Gulf Stream off Cape Hatteras, N.C., where the ocean flows with more power than all of the world's rivers combined." According to the BOEM, "Gulf Stream currents might have more potential than offshore wind. Ocean currents move more slowly than wind but are about 800 times more dense."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON METHANE EMISSIONS. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that "the city of Farmington will hold one of only four public hearings across the country for a proposal aimed at updating 30-year-old regulations on methane and natural gas releases from public and tribal lands."

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/16, 31K) reports that "nearly 800 people flooded the San Juan College's Henderson Fine Arts Center auditorium Tuesday to weigh in on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed set of regulations aimed at reducing methane leaks on public and tribal lands." According to the article, "the public comments, which came after a 45 minute BLM briefing about the proposed changes, came from two camps: those seeking to protect the environment and eliminate waste and those worried about the impact of the regulations on oil and gas industry jobs and the regional economy." During the meeting, "frustrations bubbled up and some of those who objected to the proposed rules started booing, shouting and noisily yawning during testimonials." The article notes that "when the Farmington mayor asked those in the crowd opposed to the BLM's proposed regulations to stand up, most attendees rose to their feet."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/16, 44K)

New Mexico Leaders Support Methane Rule. The [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (2/16, 4K) reports that "a proposed rule from the U.S. Department of the Interior to reduce the venting, leaking and flaring of methane and other natural gases from oil and gas drilling operations on public lands has strong support among New Mexico leaders." According to the article, "more than 40 current and former elected officials from San Juan County in New Mexico recently submitted a letter to the Bureau of Land Management in support of its proposed rules on flaring."

WYOMING DEQ DEFENDS COAL MINING DEAL. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports Wyoming regulators defended their oversight of Alpha Natural Resources' and Arch Coal's bonding after they filed for bankruptcy. In a letter to federal regulators, Kyle Wendtland, who oversees mining regulation at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, wrote that the US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has "no basis for second guessing DEQ's judgment." Wyoming officials have faced scrutiny after agreeing last year to make the state a "priority creditor to receive \$61 million out of \$411 million in required bonding for Alpha's mines." State officials argued that the agreement did not free Alpha from its reclamation obligations, and that it requires the coal mining company to emerge from bankruptcy to fully cover its bond obligations.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/16, 337K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), [WyoFile](#) (2/16), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\) Billings](#), MT (2/16, 2K).

Wyoming House Committee Allocates \$241M In Federal Funds For Highways, DEQ. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/16, 77K) reports the Wyoming House Appropriations Committee advanced a bill Tuesday morning that allocates \$162.3 million of federal mine land reclamation money to the state Highway Fund and \$79.6 million to the state Department of Environmental Quality “for ongoing operations of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and the Air Quality and the Solid Waste Management divisions.” Congress passed a large spending bill in December that gave Wyoming \$241.9 million from the federal Office of Surface Mining. The Star-Tribune mentions that Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, “two bankrupt coal companies,” have unsecured reclamation obligations in the state worth a combined \$900 million.

SIERRA CLUB FILES CHALLENGE AGAINST OIL, GAS ACTIVITIES IN OKLAHOMA. [Politico Pro](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the Sierra Club has “filed a court challenge against three oil and gas companies active in Oklahoma over their wastewater injection practices, alleging a connection between drillers’ underground disposal habits and a recent surge in earthquake activity in the state.” The petition filed in Oklahoma federal court “seeks relief under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and follows a 5.1 earthquake that hit the state on Saturday.” The group asked that the companies Devon, Chesapeake, and New Dominion “reduce immediately and substantially the amounts of Production Wastes [sic] they are injecting into the ground to levels that seismologists believe will not cause or contribute to increased earthquake frequency and severity.”

CLIMATE ACTIVIST BIDS FOR OIL, GAS LAND IN UTAH. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, Roth, 98K) reports that two dozen bidders attended a meeting in Salt Lake City on Tuesday to purchase leases of over 22,000 acres of public land auctioned off by the Bureau of Land Management. Nearly 100 climate activists protesting the auction were seated in the back of the room, but one protester, Terry Tempest Williams, had registered as a bidder. Following the auction, Williams bid \$1.50 per acre for the right to explore 800 acres of unwanted land “with the explicit goal of keeping the land out of the hands of the fossil-fuel industry.” She plans to also bid on two more parcels totaling 871 acres near Arches National Park in eastern Utah and in the Book Cliffs mountain range.

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/17, Roth, 5.45M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/16, 975K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/16, 404K).

BLM SET TO AUCTION SIX OIL AND GAS PARCELS IN MAY. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/14, 31K) reports that “the first land parcels in 15 years within the San Juan National Forest will be available for lease this spring through the Bureau of Land Management’s quarterly oil and gas lease sale.” According to the article, “since 2001, Forest Service officials have worked on an Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis to protect resources and manage oil and gas development. It was completed in 2013.” The article notes that “six land parcels, four of which are in the San Juan National Forest, will be up for competitive bid on May 12.”

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSING FOR TRAPPER, COLOWYO MINES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (2/16, 10K) reports that “the public comment period for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s environmental assessments for two Northwest Colorado mines is coming to a close this week.” According to the article, “Trapper is still undergoing a court-ordered redo on part of its federal coal leases while Colowyo is taking the next step in its Collom Expansion, which has been under assessment for several years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (2/16, 30K).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON THREE POTENTIAL FALL RIVER OIL LEASE SITES. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (2/16, 117K) reports that the BLM is “seeking public comments on potential oil and gas leases on three parcels of private land west of Edgemont, but within the boundaries of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands.” Russ Pigors, a physical scientist with the Belle Fourche BLM office, said that “a lease sale will be held for these three Fall River County parcels on July 12 this year, and BLM wants comments from the public for perspective on what sort of environmental impact permitting oil and gas exploration on these leases might have.”

BULLISH ANALYST CHANGES STANCE ON COAL MARKETS. The [Seattle Times](#) (2/17, Mapes, Bemton, 1.12M) reports that Andy Roberts, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, who “less than three years ago” was lauding the long-term prospects of two export terminals proposed for Washington “once considered vital are now irrelevant” due to the decline in Asian coal markets. Roberts indicated in his Feb. 10 report that “rapid changes in coal’s fortunes show what a miscalculation the investment in the ports was.” Combined with “stiff opposition from tribal nations and community and conservation groups,” Roberts said that the “economic wind has fallen out of the projects’ sales.” Additionally, “Asian demand has weakened to the point that coal from the Powder River Basin won’t be competitive in the market until well after 2020.” According to Roberts, non-coal alternatives

are gaining momentum, aided by policy and regulation.

Offshore Energy Development:

TWO STATES ASK COURT TO REVERSE INTERIOR OFFSHORE DRILLING RULE. [Law360](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that "Louisiana and Alabama pushed a D.C. federal judge to reverse a Department of the Interior rule change on splitting offshore oil drilling revenue Tuesday, arguing the agency favored some Gulf states over others with the new rule." The two states asked U.S. District Judge Reggie B. Walton to "bind the agency to a 25-year-old interpretation of a rule for divvying up offshore oil lease revenue where states' borders meet."

COURT BLOCKS USE OF BP RESTORATION FUNDS FOR GULF STATE PARK CONFERENCE CENTER. [Alabama Live](#) (2/17, 627K) reports that "a federal judge has blocked the use of certain BP restoration funds stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill from being used to rebuild a beachfront lodge and conference center on the Alabama coast." U.S. District Judge Charles Butler "wrote in his decision that the Trustees who were in charge of allocating the funds 'acted arbitrarily and capriciously by failing to conduct a proper alternatives analysis,' as required by the Oil Pollution Act." Butler wrote, "The Court can, and will, enjoin the use of those funds pending further review by the Trustees. However, based on the administrative record before it, and the narrow issue presented by the pleadings, the Court cannot enjoin the Commissioner or the State from building the lodge/conference center with funds other than early restoration funds."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gulf Coast \(FL\) News Today](#) (2/16, 33K).

US REP. BUDDY CARTER CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/16, 207K) reports US. Rep Buddy Carter (R-GA) reiterated his support for oil exploration and offshore drilling for Georgia "even as local communities from Savannah to Brunswick oppose it." In a telephone interview, Carter said, "American has an abundance of natural resources, and we should be utilizing all of them to assure our energy independence." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released its draft plan last year to lease ocean land for oil and gas development off the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Georgia. An expected update of the plan, set to be released soon, could omit some states. The availability of oil and gas leasing as proposed in the Department of the Interior's 2017-2022 plan "has not happened in more than 30 years." Before drilling would begun, "exploration would take place with seismic testing, a controversial practice that maps possible oil and gas deposits under the sea floor."

WOODEN SURFBOARD CONTAINS SIGNATURES OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC. Pete Stauffer, environmental director for Surfrider Foundation, writes in [Clean Energy](#) (2/16) about a wooden surfboard that "journeyed through seven states and visited countless communities on its way to Washington DC." The surfboard, which contains dozens of signatures from "restaurants, surf shops, art galleries, hotels, and other coastal businesses," is a symbol of the recreation industry's opposition to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. US Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Mark Sanford (R-SC) said they will add their signatures before it is presented to White House officials on Feb. 16 "along with letters signed by over a thousand businesses asking our nation's leaders to cancel plans for oil drilling in the Atlantic."

CSA OCEAN TO RECEIVE NOPP DEEPWATER CANYONS AWARD. [Hydro International](#) (2/16, 28K) reports the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Geological Survey announced that the National Oceanographic Partnership Program will present the 2015 Excellence in Partnering Award to a team managed by CSA Ocean Sciences Inc. that participated in the "Atlantic Canyons: Pathways to the Abyss" project. The ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 23 to coincide with Ocean Sciences 2016 in New Orleans. During its work, the CSA study team "discovered new shipwrecks, deep, cold-water corals and unexpectedly, extensive methane seeps with exotic biological assemblages" in the Baltimore and Norfolk deepwater canyons.

JURY SELECTED FOR TRIAL OF EX-BP RIG SUPERVISOR. The [AP](#) (2/16) the jury has been selected in the trial of former BP rig supervisor Robert Kaluza who is facing a misdemeanor pollution charge for his alleged role in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Kaluza had faced manslaughter counts connected to the deaths of 11 workers, but federal prosecutors backed off those charges in December.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT BLM ADOPTION PROPOSAL. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that a BLM "plan to transfer wild horses and burros to other government agencies to be used as work animals lacks safeguards to ensure they are not mistreated, wild horse advocates said." The bureau "last week asked Congress to pass legislation that would allow it to swiftly transfer excess animals that have been removed from public lands to other federal, state and local government agencies, such as the Marine Corps or the U.S. Border Patrol." The proposal, "which requires congressional approval, aims to alleviate BLM's fiscal burden as it feeds and cares for roughly 47,000 excess animals in off-range holding facilities." The Cloud Foundation, "a Colorado-based wild horse advocacy group, said the proposal has some merit, because trained wild horses would live a higher quality of life working with humans than being kept in short-term holding corrals."

IDAHO LAND BOARD APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH BLM INVOLVING LAND SWAP. The [AP](#) (2/16, Ridler, Press, 1.99M) reports that the Idaho Land Board on Tuesday "voted 5-0 to update an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management involving a land swap involving about 50 square miles of state land in southwest Idaho." The article notes that "the board in the same vote approved deferring leasing of mineral development of those state lands until Dec. 31, 2017, to avoid activity in areas considered key sage grouse habitat."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/16, 198K).

BILL INTRODUCED TO REOPEN PERMITTING PROCESS OF CEMEX MINE. [KHTS-AM](#) Santa Clarita, CA (2/16, 2K) reports that Assemblyman Scott Wilk "introduced Assembly Bill 1986 on Tuesday that would reopen the permitting process of CEMEX's proposed mine in Soledad Canyon." Wilk said, "CEMEX's mine would wreak havoc on our environment and quality of life. Our children and seniors won't be able to breath, our roads will be choked daily with an additional 1,200 18-wheelers and the mine will soak up our most precious resource, water. I'm committed to killing this project."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (2/17, 23K).

BLM CRITICIZED FOR MISSING OPPORTUNITY ON BULLWACKER-COW CREEK ACCESS. In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/16, 131K), Mike Penfold, a former BLM director for Montana, writes that the BLM has "decided not to go forward with the controversial land exchange of BLM's Durfee Hills for the Anchor Ranch located inside the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument." He argues that "acquiring better access and consolidation of public land into usable tracts for the public is a good thing." Furthermore, "opportunities often come only once and must be taken quickly if they are in the public interest." Penfold says that "the Anchor Ranch could have been a very significant addition to this amazing Montana landscape," and he is "sorry to see this opportunity pass without full public analysis."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA'S BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDES \$1.6B FOR FWS. The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (2/16, 97K) reports that President Barack Obama has "requested \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in his 2017 fiscal year budget, an increase of \$54.5 million from fiscal year 2016." Obama's "budget includes \$137.6 million for refuge land acquisition, including \$58.7 million in current funding and \$79 million in proposed permanent funding, an increase of \$69.1 million above the 2016 enacted level."

FWS GRANT HELPS JOINS TWO HALVES OF NEGWEGON STATE PARK. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (2/16, 617K) reports that the two halves of Negwegon State Park will "finally become one" this year. Negwegon, "a remote park on the shore of Lake Huron's Thunder Bay, will become contiguous property with help from a \$900,000 federal grant to buy 391 acres of land between the park halves the state has long hoped join the park with." The federal grant money comes from a FWS coastal wetlands conservation program.

GROUP MOVES TO BLOCK IMPORT OF ELEPHANTS TO ZOOS. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that "an animal rights group has sued to stop zoos in Kansas, Nebraska and Texas from bringing in new elephants from Africa." The Friends of Animals filed a lawsuit last week in federal court against the FWS. Last month, the FWS "issued permits allowing the importation of 18 African elephants from Swaziland." The lawsuit argues the FWS "did not take into account how the transfer would negatively hurt the social, mental and physical well-being of the 18 elephants."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (2/16, 1.24M), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (2/16, Nasa, 929K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/16, 290K).

FWS CONSIDERING TRANSFER OF NATIONAL BISON RANGE TO TRIBES. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (2/16, 15K) reports that “in a dramatic change of course from its historic management goals, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered the first stage of negotiations to cede control of the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.” The discussions between the FWS and CSKT “came to light in emails distributed Feb. 5 by Fish and Wildlife Service administrators, who informed agency employees of the decision, citing the inability to reach an annual funding agreement with CSKT that would allow the tribes to jointly manage the Bison Range.” According to the article, “the agency-wide messages, sent by both FWS Refuge Chief Cynthia Martinez and Mountain Prairie Regional Director Noreen Walsh, explain that talks have begun about drafting legislation that would transfer the lands comprising the National Bison Range in Montana to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the CSKT.”

STUDENTS CREATE CAMPUS WILDLIFE AREA ON PEREGRINE SCHOOL CAMPUS. The [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (2/16, 22K) reports that “parts of the Peregrine School campus in South Davis are now wildlife areas with native plants, thanks to some elbow grease from students with assistance and advice from Karlleen Vollherbst, school habitat program coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” According to the article, “the project that culminated with last Friday’s planting project began many months ago, with the preparation of a 75-page grant application detailing the proposed wildlife area.” Vollherbst said the goal of the project is to “attract different pollinators and birds to a space just outside the classroom building, where students can learn from the habitat, and play, and observe wildlife over time.”

FIRE AT GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE 50% CONTAINED. The [AP](#) (2/16) reports that FWS officials say “they’re planning to resume air operations and clear debris from a wildfire that began near a wildlife refuge in Mississippi and crossed into Alabama marshland.” According to spokeswoman Candice Stevenson, “authorities plan to fly over the burned area Tuesday after severe storms on Monday grounded air operations.” Officials say “a fire at the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge has burned roughly 4,400 acres and is about 50 percent contained.”

PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD ON MANATEE RECLASSIFICATION. The [Orlando \(FL\) Weekly](#) (2/16, 115K) reports that the FWS will hold a public meeting about the reclassification of Florida manatees from a status of “endangered” to “threatened” on Saturday, Feb. 20 in Orlando.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CONSERVATION GROUPS TO SUE FWS OVER NEW BAT RULE. Additional coverage that conservation groups said they intend to sue the FWS over a new bat rule was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/17).

National Park Service:

FOURTH GRADERS OFFERED FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS. [Fox News](#) (2/12, 9.42M) reports that families with fourth-graders can celebrate the National Parks Centennial this year with the Every Kid in a Park initiative, “which gives free access to national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and more through Aug. 31.”

Additional coverage of the NPS Centennial and the Every Kid in a Park initiative was provided by the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (2/15, Freeman, 84K) the [Tucson \(AZ\) Local Media](#) (2/16).

NPS DESIGNATED 34 NEW COMMUNITIES AS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN 2015. The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (2/16) reports that the NPS “designated 34 communities from across the United States as Certified Local Governments in 2015.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “We are proud that last year 34 new communities spanning the country from Florida to Washington joined us in our commitment to historic preservation and protecting what makes their cities and towns special. These Certified Local Governments now have access to unique resources to preserve the heritage of their communities and promote local economic growth through tourism to their historical areas.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marblehead \(MA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 157).

NPS BEGINS SELLING PASSES ONLINE. The [Greenwire](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication) reports that as the NPS “prepares to enter its second century, the agency is taking its first steps into e-commerce.” They

announced "it has launched a pilot program to sell entrance passes online for a handful of selected parks, a move Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) has pushed since last year." King said in a statement, "With the launch of this pilot program at Acadia, the National Park System is entering a new era of accessibility. Electronic park passes will not only make it easier for the American people to visit and enjoy our most treasured places, but they'll also help the Park Service maximize sales and generate new revenues. I applaud the Park Service for embracing the power of this technology and am delighted that Acadia is leading the nation in piloting it."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) and [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (2/16, 333).

REPORT RECOMMENDS EXPANDING SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the NPS has "released a plan that recommends adding more than 265 square miles of land around Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area." According to the article, "the final plan, released Tuesday, would more than double the existing wilderness area in one of the nation's most densely populated regions." The proposal would "add portions of the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel Mountains foothills, scenic areas, historic and archaeological sites, wildlife corridors and miles of hiking trails in a sprawling area that's home to millions." The article notes that "the final plan differs from last year's draft proposal by eliminating some industrialized or urbanized areas in favor of more pristine properties."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/16, 285K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (2/16, 32K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (2/16, 301K), the [Santa Monica \(CA\) Patch](#) (2/16, 3K), and [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (2/16).

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BEGINS TRAPPING AND SLAUGHTER OF BISON.

[USA Today](#) (2/16, Hafner, 5.45M) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials "started trapping bison Monday as part of an annual effort to kill hundreds of the area's iconic animals through hunting or shipment to slaughterhouses." According to the article, "government agencies aim to drive down the bison population by as many as 900 this year to reduce the mammals' centuries-old migration beyond the park's boundaries and into Montana." A plan "calls for eventually culling bison in the park from about 5,000 down to 3,000."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Oregonian](#) (2/16, 864K), the [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (2/16, 1.13M), and [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (2/16, 385K).

THEFTS PROMPT CLOSURES AT MINING SITES IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/15, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that "two areas of Joshua Tree National Park noted for their mining artifacts have been closed indefinitely because of looting, according to the park's superintendent." Carey's Castle and El Sid Mine will "be closed 'at least for a month' until cultural artifact teams can inventory and record the areas, and while the park devises an enforcement and surveillance strategy, park Supt. David Smith said Monday." He said, "We had some looting at El Sid that started a few months ago. We actually bought some artifacts to replace the original ones and they got stolen, too."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/16, 5.45M), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/16, 98K), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (2/16, 302K), and [Time Out](#) (2/16, 66K).

OFFICIALS PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH MOUNTAIN GOATS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/16, 388K) reports that to the NPS, "mountain goats are a potentially invasive species and unwanted itinerants in several Western parks, including Dinosaur National Monument." NPS officials are looking to shoot goats "wandering in from artificially established herds in Utah damage resources and disturb Dinosaur's resident bighorn sheep." According to the article, "under a draft plan released Feb. 8, the park intends to shoot any wild goats that roam into its boundaries, which straddle the Utah-Colorado line."

WATER BEGINS FLOWING TO EASTERN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (2/16, Gillis, 190K) reports the South Water Management District began moving water Monday night from water storage areas south of Lake Okeechobee to the eastern side of Everglades National Park. As a result, water that usually flows to the west and into the western section of the park will now head east, "to Shark Valley Slough — where alligators have died in recent years due to a lack of water." Water has not flowed regularly in this manner since the Tamiami Trail opened in 1928, which has served as a dam that holds back water "that historically spread to Florida Bay." District spokesperson Randy Smith said sending water to the park will improve wildlife conditions in the water storage areas between the lake and the park.

NPS SUPPORTS PLAN BY LOWELL TO LIGHT UP CANALS. The [Boston Globe](#) (2/16, Siefer, 1.05M)

reports that "starting Friday evening as part of a weekend-long Winterfest, a stretch of one canal will be bathed in shifting colors, and the area flanking the canal, Lucy Larcom Park, will feature fire artists, music, and food." According to the article, "it's a first phase in what project boosters hope could lead to the illumination —and enlivening — of much of city's the 5.6-mile network of canals." Although "one might also expect some friction between canal boosters and the National Park Service, which imposes strict design standards throughout the historic park, "park Superintendent Celeste Bemardo "expressed enthusiasm for the lighting project, noting that \$51 million in federal, state, and city funds had already been invested in canal improvements, such as paths, landscaping, and historical markers."

TRAIL AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TO BE MADE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. The [AP](#) (2/16, 1.99M) reports that the Mica View Trail at Saguaro National Park will "undergo changes to make it wheelchair accessible." The trail will be "upgraded and given a hardened surface to make it suitable for visitors who use a wheelchair or other equipment to assist with mobility." It will be "closed from Feb. 22 through May while work is under way, but once it's reopened, it will meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act for recreation trails."

SUPERDOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/16, 625K) reports that the Superdome has been named to the National Register of Historic Places "despite an objection by the state, which owns the stadium and is concerned the designation might slow down future projects." Superdome officials said Monday that "they were unaware that the federal government had approved the listing and had not been notified."

WEIR FARM SUPERINTENDENT TO RECEIVE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AWARD. The [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (2/16, Carr, 28K) reports Linda Cook, the superintendent of Weir Farm National Historic Site, will be awarded the National Park Service's Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Excellence in Cultural Resource Stewardship at a ceremony in Washington, DC on Feb. 23. Cook spearheaded a "decade-long project to meticulously restore" the home and studio of Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir to its original condition.

SILENT-MOVIE FILM STUDIO SEEKS RECOGNITION AS A HISTORIC LANDMARK. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Goodykoontz, 5.45M) reports Norman Studios, one of the last silent-movie film studios, is already on the National Register of Historic Places but is "angling for recognition as a historic landmark by the National Park Service." The Jacksonville, Florida-based studio is known for making "race films" in the 1920s that featured African-Americans and produced "almost exclusively" for African-American audiences. A nonprofit group is currently "working to restore the studio complex and turn it into a learning center for aspiring film professionals."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP GRANTS. Additional coverage of the field trip grants awarded by the National Park Foundation was provided by the [Alexander City \(AL\) Outlook](#) (2/13, 12K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE" FILM. Additional coverage of "National Parks Adventure" was provided by the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (2/16, 489K) and [Skift](#) (2/16).

NPS URGED TO SIDE WITH POINT REYES RANCHERS. The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (2/17, 165K) criticizes "a lawsuit seeking to drive peaceful ranchers out of Point Reyes National Seashore." It notes that "some of the ranches have been there since the 1860s, and many ranchers joined with neighbors and conservation groups to lobby for creation of the park when pressure built for residential development of Marin County's scenic coastal bluffs in the late 1950s and early 1960s." According to the paper, "the 15 family ranches were promised 20-year lease extensions in 2012 by then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar as proof that the long-scheduled removal of an oyster farm in Drakes Bay wasn't the first step in clearing in-holdings from the park." It hopes the NPS will "keep Salazar's promise."

Additional coverage that a group of environmentalists is suing to stop grazing at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (2/16, 22K) and [Courthouse News](#) (2/16, 7K).

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD: MAINE OFFICIALS SHOULDN'T SHUT DOWN DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/16, 157K) editorializes that the negative response by Maine Gov. LePage and the state's congressional delegation to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis' letter concerning a proposed national park is unwarranted and needlessly hostile. LePage has "predictability overacted" to the letter regarding the donation of private property belonging to Elliotsville Plantation Inc. to the federal government for the park by seizing the land "to build roads that Maine doesn't need to spoil

the organization's plans." The Press Herald says that a federally run park comprised of donated land "could be a gift for the state to treasure, not a theft to be prevented." Maine officials should be "actively engaging the Park Service" about their concerns instead of "shutting down dialogue."

WEISER: MCCLINTOCK MISINTERPRETS MUIR'S SUPPORT FOR REFORMING YOSEMITE. Matt Weiser writes in the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/17, Weiser, 569K) that it required a "certain arrogance" for US Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) to claim at a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands that John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club "and savior of Yosemite," would oppose the National Park Service removing "resort-like" amenities like ice-skating rinks, swimming pools and convenience stores from the park. McClintock said Muir "wanted people to come to our public lands knowing they would go away with fond memories, happy experiences." At the Oct. 28 hearing, McClintock called on a series of "hand-picked witnesses" to support his claim that federal agencies are responsible for Yosemite's declining attendance because it lacks amenities and concessionaires lack free rein in the parks. This move supports McClintock's goal of giving away national forest lands to local and state governments. John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, said McClintock "abuses the facts to somehow portray this dark, sinister threat that he is the champion of protecting the public from."

Top National News:

OBAMA CONFIDENT TRUMP WON'T BE ELECTED PRESIDENT. In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, lead story, 0:40, 5.08M), Scott Pelley reported President Obama on Tuesday "weighed in on the political phenomenon that is Donald Trump. President Obama was answering a question at a news conference today, and he did not mince words." The President was shown saying, "I continue to believe Mr. Trump will not be president. And the reason is because I have a lot of faith in the American people, and I think they recognize that being president is a serious job. It's not hosting a talk show or a reality show. It's not promotion. It's not marketing. It's hard."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Boyer, 285K) reports Obama, speaking at a press conference in California, "lashed out at... Trump and the rest of the" GOP White House hopefuls, "calling them unserious candidates who are 'troubling' the rest of the world with careless rhetoric and a poor grasp of basic facts." Along with his direct comments on Trump, the President – without mentioning him by name – also chided Sen. Marco Rubio "for abandoning the immigration reform bill he once supported." Said Obama, "You've got a candidate who sponsored a bill that I supported to finally solve the immigration problem, and he's running away from it as fast as he can."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Keane, 289K) reports that Obama, who "has repeatedly shown frustration with the tone and tenor of the" GOP race, said, "Foreign observers are troubled by some of the rhetoric that has taken place in some of these Republican primaries and Republican debates." The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that Obama "said Mr. Trump 'says in more interesting ways what the other candidates are saying as well.' 'He may up the ante in anti-Muslim sentiment,' Mr. Obama said, 'but if you look at what the other candidates have said, that's pretty troubling, too.'"

[Vox](#) (2/16, Stein, 758K) reports that after his remarks on Trump, Obama described "the magnitude of the challenges that face the president. 'Whoever's standing where I'm standing right now has the nuclear codes with them, and can order 21-year-olds into a firefight and [has] to make sure that the banking system doesn't collapse – and is often responsible for not just the United States of America, but 20 other countries that are having big problems,' Obama said."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Parsons, Memoli, 4.1M) reports that the remarks "represented Obama's most energetic criticism of the Republicans running to replace him." The President "has mostly kept a studied distance from the fray and resisted invitations to engage in political analysis. But GOP candidates are promising to dismantle Obama's entire legacy if they win the Oval Office, and polls show Trump dramatically in the lead in South Carolina going into its Saturday primary." [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M) also reported on Obama's remarks.

Firing Back, Trump Says He Would Have Defeated Obama In 2012. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Johnson, 8.98M) reports that Trump, asked about the President's remarks during a campaign event in South Carolina, said, "He has done such a lousy job as president. You look at our budgets, you look at our spending, we can't beat ISIS, Obamacare is terrible – we're going to terminate it, we're absolutely going to terminate it. And you look at everything, our borders are like Swiss cheese, this man has done such a bad job, he has set us back so far, and for him to say that is actually a great compliment." Of Obama, Trump added, "You're lucky I didn't run

last time, when [Mitt] Romney ran, because you would have been a one-term president.”

Poll: Trump Leads Cruz By 16 Points In South Carolina. [ABC World News](#) (2/16, story 3, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported new poll numbers show Donald Trump leading Sen. Ted Cruz by 16 points in South Carolina. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump “is crushing the competition” according to the CNN-ORC poll released on Tuesday. The survey shows Trump has 38% support compared with Cruz’s 22%, followed Sen. Marco Rubio 14%, Jeb Bush 10%, Ben Carson 6%, and Gov. John Kasich 4%. The poll shows, according to The Hill, that “a majority of Republicans surveyed – 53 percent – say Trump gives the GOP its best chance of winning the general election.”

LATimes Analysis: Trump Holds Lead In South Carolina Despite “Crude Rhetoric.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/16, Bierman, Mascaró, 4.1M) reports Trump “is maintaining his wide lead” in South Carolina “despite criticism of his crude rhetoric.” The Times says while the state “has long prided itself on Southern manners and propriety, it is changing rapidly as outsiders increasingly move” there and “Trump Nation may be immune to, and in some cases, even more forgiving of his brash behavior.” In a quote that is used in the article’s headline, the Times reports, a South Carolina voter said, “We’re voting with our middle finger.”

WPost: “Middle-Of-Road” Republicans Leave Trump Event “More Terrified Than Ever.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Temis, 8.98M) reports the “madness” surrounding Trump “has not been lost on the middle-of-the-road Republicans” in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. The Post highlights attendees at a Trump town-hall who left the event “more terrified than ever” and “comparing the Republican front-runner to President Obama, comparing him to Vladimir Putin, calling him a bully, saying he denigrates women and the disabled.”

Tea Party Of America Co-Founder “Abandoned” Trump. The [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, Miller, 285K) reports Tea Party of America co-founder Ken Crow “abandoned” Trump on Tuesday and “threw his backing to Jeb Bush in a striking move that suggests some softening in the GOP front-runner’s support among conservatives as the campaign shifts to South Carolina.” Crow told the Times “he’s become repulsed by [Trump’s] volatile personality and crude antics on the stump.” Crow said, “I was on the Trump train, but enough is enough,” adding, “When is Trump going to act like a president? The answer is he’s not.”

CBS: Haley Will Not Endorse Trump Before Primary. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 2, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley not only said “she will not endorse Trump” before the South Carolina primary, but “said Trump is everything a governor does not want in a president.”

The Hill Analysis: Trump’s “Blunt Message” Defies Predictions. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Easley, 862K) says Trump “was supposed to be dead and buried by now” as “the political class and pundits have been predicting [his] political demise” since he announced his candidacy. However, according to The Hill, “Trump’s blunt message of American exceptionalism and his distance from the political establishment continue to strike a chord with grassroots conservatives, who are fed up with the status quo in Washington.” The Hill provides seven instances in which “the political class leaped to write the Trump campaign’s obituary, only to be proven wrong.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump’s Style Makes Him “Almost Comic-Proof.” The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Poniewozik, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Trump “works in the mode and rhythms of a stand-up. He riffs. He goads. He works blue.” That style, according to the Times, “has rendered him, weirdly, almost comic-proof.” The Times explains that “election parodies traditionally exaggerate candidates,” but Trump “exaggerates himself – he’s the frilled lizard of politics, inflating his self-presentation to appear ever larger.” The Times says “satire exposes candidates’ contradictions and absurdities,” but “Trump blows past those, while his supporters cheer.”

Milbank: George W. Bush Is Reminder Of When “Conservative Politics Wasn’t So Beastly.” In his [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says former President George W. Bush’s recent campaigning for Jeb Bush “served as a reminder that, not too long ago, conservative politics wasn’t so beastly.” Milbank says while Bush “did his share to coarsen political discourse ... even Karl Rove’s underhandedness seems almost quaint compared with today’s brutality.” Milbank adds the GOP “isn’t necessarily more conservative; Trump is less a conservative than a purveyor of insults, nationalism and conspiracy theories.” Milbank concludes the former President’s “reemergence offered Republicans a chance to reflect on how Bush’s party of conservatism so quickly became Trump’s party of rage.”

SOUTH CAROLINA POLL: CLINTON LEADS SANDERS 56%-38%. [The Hill](#) (2/16, Byrnes, 862K) reported that CNN/ORC survey of 280 South Carolina likely Democratic primary voters, taken Feb. 10-15, shows Hillary Clinton leading Sen. Bernie Sanders 56%-38%. Among African-American voters, Clinton leads 65%-28%, and

among women voters, she leads 60%-33%, according to the poll. Sanders leads among white voters 54%-40%, and he leads among men voters 49%-45%, according to the poll.

Media Analyses: Clinton, Sanders South Carolina Battle Comes Down To Black Vote. The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, Tucker, Wagner, 8.98M) reports that as Clinton and Sanders battle for support in South Carolina, "the fight is largely among African Americans, who are expected to make up at least half of the state's "electorate and who maintain a large degree of fondness for the Clintons." Sanders is attempting "to cut into Clinton's sizable lead by appealing to younger African Americans," who find appeal in "his message of economic justice and feel that many of the crime policies that began under President Bill Clinton have done long-term harm to their communities."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/16, story 3, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Nancy Cordes reported that Sanders on Tuesday "met with black ministers in Columbia, South Carolina," while Clinton "sat down with civil rights leaders in Harlem." In her Harlem speech, Clinton "proposed a \$2 billion plan to reform school discipline policies that she says are failing black students." Sanders, meanwhile, "focused on black incarceration rates." Cordes added that Clinton leads "among South Carolina African Americans by nearly 40 points. She sought to cement that advantage today by implying Sanders is new to the fight for racial equality." However, Sanders "argued the civil right movement inspired his fight against Wall Street greed."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/16, story 2, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M), Kasie Hunt reported that in the Democratic race, "African-American voters [were] are the focus" on Tuesday, with "Clinton courting black leaders, hoping for an endorsement from reverend Al Sharpton," and Sanders meeting with "faith leaders" in South Carolina, where he "campaigning with Erica Garner, whose father died after a New York city police officer put him in a chokehold." Erica Garner was shown saying of Sanders, "He marched with Martin Luther King. He stood with Jesse Jackson, so basically he's stood with black people when it wasn't popular."

The [New York Times](#) (2/16, Chozick, Alcindor, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports, "The black vote is likely to make up roughly half the Democratic electorate in the party's Feb. 27 primary in South Carolina, and the two candidates highlighted similar themes in their appeals: the disproportionate economic barriers that young black men, in particular, face and the need to overhaul a criminal justice system that incarcerates young black men at high rates and to work with police forces to prevent officers from shooting black men or singling out African-Americans for arrest. Mr. Sanders, speaking to students at a town-hall-style meeting at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, said he was tired of seeing 'videos of unarmed people being killed by police officers.'"

Clinton Woos African-Americans During Harlem Speech, Meeting With Civil Rights Leaders. [USA Today](#) (2/16, Przybyla, 5.45M) reported that a Harlem speech yesterday, Hillary Clinton, "citing a lingering 'reality of systemic racism' in America, called for a comprehensive approach to battling racial inequality...that goes beyond changes to the criminal justice system." Clinton detailed "a multi-pronged approach, including new job investments, equal pay for women of color and ending what is, for many young black men, a school-to-prison pipeline."

[Reuters](#) (2/16, Allen) reports that Clinton, wooing the crucial African-American vote, also met with civil rights leaders at the National Urban League's New York headquarters, including the Rev. Al Sharpton. Reuters adds that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, and ex-US Attorney General joined Clinton onstage for her speech in Harlem.

Bill Clinton Stumps For Hillary In South Carolina. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/16, Morill, 610K) reports that former President Bill Clinton, addressing "350 people at the West End Community Development Center" on Tuesday in Greenville, SC, portrayed his wife Hillary "as a pragmatic 'change agent.'" While Clinton didn't mention Sanders by name, "he said [Hillary's] policies are more pragmatic."

Under the headline "Bill Clinton Makes Nice With S.C. Blacks Who Ditched Hillary For Obama In 2008," the [Washington Times](#) (2/16, Dinan, 285K) reports that the former President attempted to link "Clinton to his own eight years in office, to President Obama's tenure and even to the anger that's forced Mrs. Clinton into a tougher primary race than she had hoped." Targeting "the young voters drawn to Mr. Sanders' promise of free public college," the former President said, "A lot of these young millennials are mad, and I think they are making a mistake, but they're supporting her opponent, because he's promising free college. Why? Because they can't move out of their parents' homes because they can't afford to pay their debt."

Sanders Dismisses Bill Clinton's Tea Party Comparison As "Silly." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/16, Brody, 289K)

reported that one day after Bill Clinton made remarks "widely interpreted as a criticism directly aimed at Bernie Sanders," the Vermont lawmaker on Tuesday fired back. Campaigning for his wife on Monday in Florida, Clinton – while not mentioning Sanders by name – "said the Tea Party succeeded at the ballot box by deciding to 'just tell people what they want to hear,' before quickly adding that Democrats have also began 'rewarding people who tell us things we know they can't do because it pushes our hot button.'" Asked by Bloomberg Politics' Mark Halperin about Clinton's comments, Sanders said that "we should not be making silly remarks." Asked, "Is there a comparison" between Sanders and the Tea Party, Sanders replied, "There's no comparison."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"Hillary Clinton Should Just Say Yes To A \$15 Minimum Wage."* A [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says on the campaign trail, Hillary Clinton "has eloquently defined workers' rights as human rights," and argues that she "could assert both more forcefully by championing a stronger federal minimum wage of \$15 an hour." Clinton's fight for a \$12 wage, the Times says, "stance misses the big picture, which is that the risk in keeping the minimum too low is bigger than the risk of raising it too high."

"A Tale Of Horror At The United Nations." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the UN is "failing some of the most vulnerable children it is supposed to protect," noting accusations of sexual abuse by peacekeepers in the Central African Republic. The Times says that while countries that contribute troops to peacekeeping missions "bear the primary responsibility for crimes committed by their forces," the UN "urgently needs to intensify its oversight," and welcomes the appointment last week of Jane Holl Lute as a special coordinator. Lastly, the Times argues that "despite the difficulties in recruiting enough troops for peacekeeping duties, it is time to exclude countries that do not impose the necessary discipline to make zero tolerance possible."

WASHINGTON POST. *"Mr. Obama's Defense Budget Reflects A New Age Of Military Deterrence."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) calls the President's budget "recognition that Russia has evolved from hoped-for partner to serious threat is welcome." The Post argues Western allies "must continue the fight against the Islamic State and other forces of instability," but they "also must recognize that, through no choice of their own, a new age of deterrence has dawned," and the US must "make clear to Russia that further aggression would impose an unacceptable cost."

"Virginia, Don't Revive The Electric Chair." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes against a bill by Virginia Del. Jackson H. Miller (R-Manassas) to bring back the electric chair for capital punishment. The Post says electrocution is "barbaric," and Virginia should either wait to procure drugs needed for lethal injections or "recognize the future and scrap capital punishment altogether."

"DC Fire System Needs To Change Because Lives Are At Stake." The [Washington Post](#) (2/16, 8.98M) editorializes that with the persistent "incompetence" of emergency medical care, the DC fire system needs to change. The system's failures were highlighted last week when Juliette Saussy, the medical director hired seven months ago to help reform the department, quit "with a withering critique of the organization and its leadership." Because Chief Gregory Dean has been in the department for less than a year, the Post says he "should be given more time." However, with lives at stake, the "clock should be ticking" on his efforts towards improvement.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"Regulating Education For Profit."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) criticizes Tony Miller, the second highest-ranking official in the Education Department from 2009 to 2013, because of the fact that Miller will soon become chairman of the for-profit Apollo Education once Apollo is bought by the private-equity firm Vistria Group. The Journal says that Miller led a federal department bent on destroying the value of Apollo, then left the government and bought Apollo at a fraction of the price with the hopes that a new Administration will be more lenient towards for-profit education.

"Africa's Terror Crescent." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that the US, UN, African Union, and European powers have failed to uproot Islamist terrorists from Africa, with several attacks last weekend highlighting jihad's reach on the continent. This terrorism endangers some of Africa's most promising regions that span from the Horn of Africa to the Mediterranean coast and south to Nigeria. The Journal concludes that as the situation in Syria shows, jihad will continue to spread unless it is crushed.

“The New Schumer Precedent.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says in an editorial that Sen. Charles Schumer appears ham-fisted in his efforts to explain comments he made in 2007 that the Senate should reject any hypothetical Supreme Court nominees during the last 18 months of President Bush’s term.

“An Animas River Accounting.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/16, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says a report last week by the House Natural Resources Committee suggests the EPA isn’t giving the full story regarding the agency’s litany of failures that culminated in the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine toxic disaster. The Journal claims reports from EPA and the Interior Department include many inconsistencies, and adds that if the agency wouldn’t tolerate a private business acting in such a way, the House committee should continue holding EPA to the same rigid standards.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- [Their Unifying Principal](#)
- [Obama Won’t Shy From A Court Fight](#)
- [Grim Sleeper Trial Finally Begins](#)
- [Pope Makes A Stand At The Front Line Of Mexico’s Drug War](#)
- [Lautner Home Marks A Sweet Sport For LACMA](#)

Wall Street Journal:

- [Saudi, Russia, Qatar, Venezuela Agree To Freeze Oil Output](#)
- [Obama Plans To Make Court Pick In Next Few Weeks](#)
- [Iran “Foreign Legion” Leads Battle In Syria’s North](#)
- [South Carolina GOP Voters Feel The Benefits Of Free Trade—But Also The Scars](#)

New York Times:

- [President Raises Stakes In Supreme Court Nominee Battle](#)
- [Supreme Court Path Is Littered With Pitfalls, For President And GOP](#)
- [Hillary Clinton’s Candidacy Reveals Generational Schism Among Women](#)
- [Virtual Reality Companies Look To Science Fiction For Their Next Play](#)
- [New York Schools Wonder: How White Is Too White?](#)
- [Young Saudis See Cushy Jobs Vanish Along With Nation’s Oil Wealth](#)

Washington Post:

- [DC Cabbies Are On Prolific Ticket-Writing Officer’s Radar](#)
- [Shutdown Was Cruz’s Defining Moment](#)
- [Europe Flails At Migrant Crisis](#)
- [Obama Pledges Qualified Nominee](#)
- [Sanders And Clinton See Black Votes As Key In SC](#)

Financial Times:

- [Saudi And Russia Agree Oil Freeze](#)
- [China Bank Lending Hits Record In January](#)

Washington Times:

- [Angry Tea Partyer Abandons Trump In S. Carolina](#)
- [GOP Starts To Yield On Voting To Fill Scalia’s Seat](#)
- [Clinton Welcomed In South Carolina Despite Caustic Campaigning In 2008](#)
- [Leftist Takes Advantage Of A Weakened Venezuela](#)
- [Some Planned Parenthood Supporters Say Constitution Protects Investigators](#)
- [Ugandan Voters To Test Another African Leader’s Grip On Power](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination Debate; Heartburn Medication Debate; Eagles Of Death Concert; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; California Earthquake.

CBS: 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; El Nino-Global Effects; Lesotho Drought-El Nino; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Pope John Paul II-Lifelong Friendship; US Railroad Inspection Standards; Westminster Dog Show.
NBC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Supreme Court Nomination; Severe Weather; Los Angeles-Grim Sleeper Trial; Student Loan Arrest; US Prescription Drug Prices; Former UN Secretary General Death; US-Cuba Commercial Flights; Angola-Record Diamond; Westminster Dog Show.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 16 minutes, 00 seconds
Severe Weather – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
Supreme Court Justice Scalia Death – 6 minutes, 00 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

CBS: San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; Pope Francis-Mexico Visit; Westminster Dog Show Winner.
NPR: Supreme Court Nomination Debate-President Obama Comments; San Bernardino Shooter-Apple Phone Unlock Order; Oregon Protester Leaders-Comments; China-Woody Island Missiles Deployed; Hanoi-War Commemoration; Baltimore-Organized Crime Leader Story; Westminster Dog Show.
FOX: 2016 Politics-Republican Campaigns; 2016 Politics- Donald Trump; Supreme Court Nomination Debate.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No scheduled public events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits New Orleans, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee to participate in events commemorating the 7th anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 12 Feb – 22 Feb

Other: 7:30 AM FCW Unified Security event, "Strengthening the Cyber Ecosystem." – An event that will "provide federal IT leaders with insights into how to build a cyber ecosystem that reduces their vulnerabilities and strengthens their capacity to respond to the rising tide of cyber threats." Speakers include NPPD Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) Cybersecurity Assurance Branch Chief Martin Stanley, who is scheduled to deliver remarks at 10:50 a.m. Location: Willard InterContinental Hotel 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., NW <https://fcw.com/cybersecurity2016>

3:00 PM U.S. Justice Action Network to Release New Poll Revealing Voter Attitudes Toward Criminal Justice Reform – The U.S. Justice Action Network will unveil new polling that highlights voter sentiment toward federal criminal justice reforms currently being considered by the U.S. Senate. The poll results will highlight voter attitudes toward federal reform in six states, all of which are considered crucial in the 2016 election cycle, including Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Ed Goetas, president and CEO of conservative polling firm The Tarrance Group will present the polling results as well as highlight other insights generated by the survey. The U.S. Justice Action Network's conservative and progressive partners will also be on hand to give their take on the findings, and what it means for the larger effort to advance reforms. Location: 444 North Capitol, Room 337 www.justiceactionnetwork.org

7:00 AM Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit continues – Annual Nuclear Deterrence Summit. Day two speakers include National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Frank Klotz, Russia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sergey Kislyak, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, GeoStrategic Analysis President Peter Huessy, and Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://deterrencesummit.com/>

12:30 PM GOP Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' on helping America's entrepreneurs – House Committee on Small Business Chairman Republican Rep. Steve Chabot delivers 'major policy speech' at the NPC on 'how Congress can help America's entrepreneurs', as part of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation 2016 State of Entrepreneurship Address Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, during his speech at the rally, George W. Bush said his brother Jeb is the guy who can fix the problems that inflame our country's frustrations. Or in other words, Jeb is America's 'Preparation H.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the latest national poll, Hillary Clinton's lead over Bernie Sanders has narrowed to ten points. Also narrowed, Hillary Clinton's eyes."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 31 percent of Donald Trump supporters in South Carolina would support a ban on homosexuals immigrating to the US. Oh, yeah, because that's what all cool, gay Europeans dream of...South Carolina."

Seth Meyers: "CNN has released an article comparing the Republican candidates to used cars, which likened John Kasich to a family-friendly minivan. And here are some of the other candidates. Ben Carson is a Prius. You can hardly hear it running."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 23, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please [contact](#) Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [White House Holds First National Water Summit.](#)
- + [26th Person Charged In Malheur Occupation Remains At Large.](#)
- + [McCarthy: Investigators Found No "Negligence" In EPA's Handling Of Gold King Mine Spill.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Interior Officials Visit Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Dedicates Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Doña Ana County Commission Approves Statement Supporting Tribe.](#)
- + [Child Welfare Attorney: CPS Need To Better Understand Tribes.](#)
- + [GEAR UP Corruption Probe Finds Backdated Employment Contracts For Top Officials.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Native American Tribes Have Gained Almost 400,000 Acres Under Obama Administration.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Cowlitz Casino Lawsuit.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Additional Coverage: Applicants Sought For Summer Internships At Office of Insular Affairs in DC.](#)
- + [Bevacqua: Commission On Decolonizations Needs Interest And Support.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Judge Rejects Injunction To Protect Spotted Frog.](#)
- + [New Dispute Emerges Over Bay Delta Tunnels Project.](#)
- + [BOR Says Lake Shasta Has Too Much Water.](#)
- + [New Deal Grand Coulee Dam "Powers On" 75 Years Later.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Additional Coverage: BOEM Evaluates 800-Megawatt California Wind Farm.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Obama Administration Defends Fracking Rule Against Preliminary Injunction.](#)
- + [BLM Extends Comment Period On Methane Rules.](#)
- + [BLM Admits Mistake On Announcement Of Deferral Of Chaco Oil, Gas Sale.](#)
- + [Landowner Group Asks Regulators To Order Reclamation Liability Changes.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Cancellation Of Badger-Two Medicine Lease.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Illinois AG Madigan Demands Peabody Prove It Can Pay Future Cleanup Costs.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Bids For Gulf Of Mexico Lease Auction To Be Announced Wednesday.](#)

- + Interior Asked By Scientists To Keep California Fracking Ban.
- + US, BP Look To \$20 Billion Oil Spill Settlement Approval.
- + Additional Coverage Of Offshore Drilling Plan.
- + Additional Coverage: BOEM Proposes New Rules For Development Of Outer Continental Shelf.
- + Additional Coverage: BSEE Assists In Opening Oil Spill Response Test Burn Tank.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + Bill Would Strip Federal Officials Of Law Enforcement Powers.
- + Colorado Local Governments Meet On Grouse Habitat Mapping.
- + Additional Coverage: BLM Seeks Nominations To Resource Advisory Councils.
- + Additional Coverage: Timber Payments To Oregon Counties Drop To Record Low.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge Receives \$1 Million Budget Boost.
- + FWS Distributes Nearly \$50 Million To Support Wildlife Conservation Projects.
- + Hunting Provides \$15 Million For Wildlife Restoration In Oregon In 2016.
- + FWS Proposes Downgrading Manatees From Endangered To Threatened.
- + Study: Removing Invasive Mammals From Islands Will Help Native Species.
- + Environmentalists Worry Adding Monarch Butterfly To Endangered Species List May Backfire.
- + Work Continues On Expansion Of Spring Creek Greenway.
- + Another Bald Eagle Found Dead In Delaware.
- + TakePart Hosting Annual Endangered Species Bracket Game.
- + National Wildlife Refuge System Celebrates 113th Anniversary.
- + Additional Coverage: Military Postpones Tortoise Relocation Plan.

National Park Service:

- + Supreme Court Sends Moose Hunter's Case Back To Ninth Circuit.
- + House Approves Coltsville National Park Fix.
- + Rep. Poliquin Opposes Executive Order Creating Maine Monument.
- + Cherry Blossom Season Arrives In Washington.
- + Florida Nuclear Plant Leak Moving Toward Water Wells.
- + San Mateo County Residents Oppose Changes To GGNRA Dog Policies.
- + Grant Will Fund Smokies Education Program.
- + Additional Coverage: Bill Would Designate Birmingham Civil Rights District As National Park.

US Geological Survey:

- + Additional Coverage: Seismologist Lucy Jones Retiring From USGS.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Obama Calls For Unity Against ISIL As GOP Candidates Blast His Anti-Terror Strategy.
- + Obama Calls For Burying "Last Remnants" Of Cold War, Appeals For Democracy In Cuba.
- + Clinton Pads Lead With Big Win In Arizona; Sanders Takes Idaho, Utah.
- + Trump Trounces Rivals In Arizona; Cruz Wins Utah.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

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:

WHITE HOUSE HOLDS FIRST NATIONAL WATER SUMMIT. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/22, James, 98K) reports the White House on Tuesday marked World Water Day with its first national water summit in a bid to “put a greater focus on water challenges ranging from climate change to the old, leaky pipes that waste billions of gallons across the country every day.” At the event, the Obama Administration “announced several initiatives aimed at encouraging more investments in water infrastructure, improving water data and boosting technologies that can help shrink the country’s water footprint.” The White House said it is “promoting several new initiatives aimed at making the country’s water system more sustainable,” and announced “commitments of nearly \$4 billion in private capital for investments in infrastructure, as well as private-sector plans to invest more than \$1 billion in the next decade in developing new water technologies such as advanced water treatment and reuse systems.” In addition, the Administration said it will “spend about \$35 million this year in federal grants to support water science.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Miami Herald](#) (3/23, 803K), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/22, 279K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/22, 31K), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/22, 98K), [Think Progress](#) (3/22, 329K), and [KING-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (3/23, 328K).

Federal Study: Western Farms, Hydropower At Risk From Climate Change. The [AP](#) (3/22, Elliott) reports that a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation report warned Tuesday that climate change could impact food production, the environment, and electrical generation at dams by disrupting the interplay of rain, snow and temperature in the West. Higher temperatures “would mean more evaporation from reservoirs, particularly in California’s Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins,” lowering hydroelectric output during high summertime demand. [The Hill](#) (3/22, Henry, 862K) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said in a statement, “One of the greatest challenges we face is dealing with the impacts of climate change on our nation’s water, which is really the lifeblood of our economy.”

In California, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/22, Alexander, 3.37M) reports that “the upper Sacramento Valley is forecast to receive the same or slightly more precipitation, the San Joaquin Valley is slated for about the same, and Southern California will probably see less.” Lake and surface reservoir areas are projected to drop an estimated 17 percent.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (3/22, Finley, 881K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/22, Elliott, Press, 1.99M), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (3/22, 952K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/22, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/22, 290K), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/22, 4.92M), [Colorado Public Radio](#) (3/22), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (3/22, 6K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (3/22, 78K).

BOR Releases Columbia Basin Climate Impact Assessment. [KMVT-TV](#) Twin Falls, ID (3/22, 1K) reports that the BOR has released the Columbia Basin Climate Impact Assessment, “which projected climate change impacts on water resources in the Pacific Northwest, including Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Oregon and Washington.” According to the article, “the study found that warming temperatures will continue across the basin, and although there will not be significant changes in the mean annual precipitation, precipitation timing will change significantly, with more precipitation during the winter and less during the summer.” BOR Commissioner Estevan López said, “This climate impact assessment for the Columbia River Basin will give water managers new information to plan for sustainable water supplies now and into the future. This impact assessment is only the starting point – an initial analysis of conditions. This serves to establish a foundation for in-depth studies that will include more detailed climate adaptation strategies.”

The [AP](#) (3/22, Geranios, Press, 1.99M) reports that “three areas were specifically studied, the Columbia River above The Dalles, Snake River at Brownlee Dam and the Yakima River at Parker.” According to the article, “at these three points, the mean snow water equivalent is projected to decline at all locations.” The assessment “projected a trend that indicated there would be an increase in runoff from December to March and a decrease in runoff from April to July.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/22, Geranios, 285K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (3/22, 173K), and the [Baytown \(TX\) Sun](#) (3/22, 28K).

Group Fights For More Rio Grande Water. The [AP](#) (3/22, Bryan, Press, 1.99M) reports that “environmentalists are challenging decades-old permits that allow one of New Mexico’s major irrigation districts to pull water from the Rio Grande, saying the district has failed to prove to state regulators that it’s putting the

water to beneficial use." WildEarth Guardians claims the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District has "failed to prove to the state engineer's office that the water being diverting under permits issued more than 80 years ago is being put to beneficial use." The group said "the state engineer's office has effectively given the irrigation district a blank water check for decades and that the river's health is being compromised."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (3/22, 67K) and the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (3/22, 952K).

Greenpeace: Coal Mines, Plants Depleting Water Supplies In Water-scarce Regions. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/22, Ruitenberg, 2.92M) reports that according to a study commissioned by Greenpeace, coal mines and coal fired power plants account for about 7 percent of global water withdrawals, enough for 1.2 billion people. "The share is set to double in the next 20 years" with about "44 percent of coal-fed plants and almost half of those planned in the future are in regions with high levels of water stress." China, India and the US have most coal plants in areas where water withdrawal is happening faster than it can be replenished.

Study: Greater Drought Could Slow US Forest Fire Recoveries. [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/22, Jackson, 442K) reports climate researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources have released a study on how forests recover from severe fires. Lead author Brian Harvey said Rocky Mountain forests "are well adapted to severe fires, but the net result of larger fires and warmer temperatures will likely be a decrease in tree density, a reduction in forest extent, and more forest patchiness in high-elevation areas." The study "found hot conditions make it difficult for new seeds to take hold after a fire." The study could help land managers understand the importance of unburned "islands" near a forest fire site, learning to leave alone patches that could help restore burn areas.

26TH PERSON CHARGED IN MALHEUR OCCUPATION REMAINS AT LARGE. [Greenwire](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication) reports that a federal judge in Oregon on Monday "revealed the name of the 26th person to be charged in the 40-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, though he is not yet in custody and his Montana family is reportedly weighing the possibility of resisting his arrest." Jake Ryan is "accused of three felony counts of impeding federal land management officials from their duties, carrying a weapon into a federal facility and excavating lands that are sacred to the Burns Paiute Tribe, according to a federal grand jury indictment." Federal prosecutors told the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon on Monday that "Ryan's family in Montana is aware of the indictment and has hired an attorney."

The [AP](#) (3/22, Volz, 285K) reports that Sanders County Sheriff Tom Rummel, "trying to head off any new armed conflicts, warned standoff supporters to stay away during negotiations for Ryan's arrest." Rummel said, "There is no standoff, and I want to keep it that way. I don't need anybody showing up in my county that's only going to add tension to the situation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/22, Matt Volz |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/22, Volz, Press, 1.99M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/22, Levin, 3.71M), and [Reuters](#) (3/22).

Six Malheur Defendants To Be Flown To Nevada For Bunkerville Arraignment. The [AP](#) (3/22, 1.99M) reports that "a federal judge in Portland will allow U.S. Marshals to transport Ammon Bundy and five others to Nevada for a court hearing related to an armed standoff against government agents in 2014." U.S. District Court Judge Anna Brown on Tuesday "ordered the defendants to be flown to Nevada on April 13 and returned to Oregon 10 days later."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/22, 285K), the [Oregonian](#) (3/22, 864K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/23, 2K).

Interior Rejects Malheur Records Requests. The [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/22, 180K) reports that "public records requests submitted by the Statesman Journal to federal agencies in connection with the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation have been met with mixed results." According to the article, "requests were sent in January to the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Justice under the federal Freedom of Information Act" for information including "internal communications referring to the occupation, leaders Ammon and Ryan Bundy, their father Cliven Bundy, and the criminal case against Dwight and Steven Hammond." The Interior Department "denied the records request March 14, citing an exemption from disclosing 'records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes.'"

MCCARTHY: INVESTIGATORS FOUND NO "NEGLIGENCE" IN EPA'S HANDLING OF GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The [Daily Caller](#) (3/22, Bastasch, 443K) reports that Administrator McCarthy told lawmakers on

the House Committee hearing that investigators have not found any instances of negligence in the EPA's handling of the Gold King Mine spill. She noted that an internal investigation at EPA, the office of inspector general, and an independent investigation by the Department of the Interior all came to the same conclusion. McCarthy acknowledged that "the work we did resulted in the blowout," but reiterated that the EPA did not intentionally breach the mine. However, a Daily Caller News Foundation investigation concluded that the "EPA intentionally breached the mine in August, despite not having the proper equipment on site that day or doing any pressure testing of the mine mouth."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/22, Henry, 862K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR OFFICIALS VISIT MALHEUR NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/22, 285K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/22, 337K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/23, 98K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/22, 2K), and [Northwest Public Radio](#) (3/22).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL DEDICATES BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony for Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument was provided by the [Marysville \(CA\) Appeal-Democrat](#) (3/23, 68K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

DOÑA ANA COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVES STATEMENT SUPPORTING TRIBE. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/22, 47K) reports that Doña Ana County commissioners on Tuesday "in a contentious vote OK'd a statement of support for a Las Cruces-based tribe that's attempting to gain formal tribal recognition from the U.S. government." The approval arrived "a day after Las Cruces city councilors declined to pass a statement of support for the same tribe — the Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe — and opted instead to table the proposal." According to the article, "the approval means the county will send a copy of the resolution to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is processing the Piro-Manso-Tiwa's application for tribal status, before a March 27 deadline to submit public comments on the proposal."

CHILD WELFARE ATTORNEY: CPS NEED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND TRIBES. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/22, Michels, 37K) reports "Child and Protective Services specialists need to better understand tribes" in order to comply with federal laws meant to protect tribal members, according to Fort Peck Indian Child Welfare Act attorney Hogan Boggio. Boggio "said that the concept of adoption doesn't fit with tribal culture" and that social workers overlook the culturally-appropriate option of guardianships in cases of alleged abuse or neglect. Ideas to increase protection of tribal members include giving tribal courts jurisdiction in such cases and empowering the Bureau of Indian Affairs to investigate allegations.

Author: Federal Law Fails Child In Custody Case. In a [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (3/22, 301K) op-ed, author Susan Shelley writes that the Choctaw Nation's intervention in a child custody case was "closely related" to human sacrifice in that it was a triumph of collectivism over individual rights. Shelley reports the girl, who was "just 1.5 percent" Choctaw and had been in the care of her Santa Clarita foster family "since she was two" was "pulled weeping and frightened from the arms of her foster father" on Monday to be placed with distant Choctaw relatives in accordance with federal law. Shelley reports that the Goldwater Institute has filed a lawsuit on behalf of such children arguing that they are "being unfairly denied their civil rights" because their placements are determined "not in accord with their best interests but by their ethnicity."

GEAR UP CORRUPTION PROBE FINDS BACKDATED EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR TOP OFFICIALS. The [Mitchell \(SD\) Daily Republic](#) (3/23, Mercer, 37K) reports "employment contracts in the GEAR UP corruption case show inconsistencies that investigators suggest were meant to mislead state auditors." GEAR UP was a program focused on schools "in Indian country across South Dakota" to educated children and families from low-income households on higher education planning. Corruption charges include signing of backdated contracts for former top officials "for the state Department of Education, the University of South Dakota, and the US Bureau of Indian Education."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES HAVE GAINED ALMOST 400,000 ACRES UNDER OBAMA ADMINISTRATION. Additional coverage that "Native American tribes have been steadily gaining lands under President Barack Obama's administration" was provided by the [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (3/21) and the [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (3/22).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF COWLITZ CASINO LAWSUIT. Additional coverage of the case “that could decide the fate of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s \$510 million mega-casino” was provided by the [Battle Ground \(WA\) Reflector](#) (3/22).

Office of Insular Affairs:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AT OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS IN DC. Additional coverage of the OIA Summer Internship Program was provided by the [St. Thomas Source](#) (3/21, 873) and the [Marianas Variety](#) (3/22).

BEVACQUA: COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATIONS NEEDS INTEREST AND SUPPORT. In a column in [The Guam Daily Post](#) (3/23) Michael Bevacqua reports the Commission on Decolonization received a grant from the US Department of Interior to aid in its educational campaign on issues such as “the difference between statehood, free association, or independence.” Bevacqua calls the grant “exciting news” but says that “the lack of will and interest among political leaders still remains” and “the Commission on Decolonization can only be as effective as the level of support it receives.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

JUDGE REJECTS INJUNCTION TO PROTECT SPOTTED FROG. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (3/22, 113K) reports that “a federal judge has rejected a request by environmentalists to drastically modify how water in several Central Oregon reservoirs is managed.” U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken said “the environmental groups failed to show that such a preliminary injunction was justified to protect the threatened Oregon spotted frog.” According to the article, “during oral arguments the two groups asked Aiken for a preliminary injunction that would restore flows in the streams and rivers on which the dams are located to more natural levels.” However, the BOR and “several irrigation districts countered that the frogs have adapted to water conditions in the 70 years since the dams were built, so a sudden disruption in how they’re operated will likely injure the species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/22, 98K).

NEW DISPUTE EMERGES OVER BAY DELTA TUNNELS PROJECT. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/22, 569K) reports that “a potentially major new fight has erupted over Gov. Jerry Brown’s plan to build two huge tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and this time the protests are coming from a group of farmers that wants the tunnels built.” The San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, “a powerful San Joaquin Valley farm water agency, demanded Monday that two members of the State Water Resources Control Board be disqualified from a crucial hearing on the tunnels scheduled for early May.” In papers filed Monday, the San Luis agency claimed “board Chair Felicia Marcus and board member Tam Doduc, the presiding officers in the hearing, have already made up their minds about a critical issue that could translate into less water delivered to San Luis and other water agencies south of the Delta.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/22, 279K).

BOR SAYS LAKE SHASTA HAS TOO MUCH WATER. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (3/22, 65K) reports that “after receiving nearly 60 inches of rain since October, there is too much water in Lake Shasta,” according to the BOR. However, BOR officials, “worried about the high inflow into the lake from recent heavy rains, have also had to raise releases from Shasta and Keswick dams to reduce the chances of downstream flooding.” Shane Hunt, a spokesman for the BOR, said “the bureau has to keep a safety margin in the lake, in case too much water begins flowing into the lake during a storm.”

NEW DEAL GRAND COULEE DAM “POWERS ON” 75 YEARS LATER. In a [Smithsonian](#) (3/22, 6.89M) feature, Erick Trickey revisits the history of the Columbia river’s Grand Coulee Dam, from early plans dating back to 1918, to its dedication by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a New Deal project, to its present position as the US’ largest hydrogenerator of electric power, “supplying electricity to the entire western United States, from Washington state to New Mexico, as well as parts of Canada.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM EVALUATES 800-MEGAWATT CALIFORNIA WIND FARM. Additional coverage that the BOEM is "evaluating a proposal for the first offshore wind project in California" was provided by the [Providence \(RI\) Business News](#) (3/22, 14K).

Onshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION DEFENDS FRACKING RULE AGAINST PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication) reports that "for the first time since a federal court froze the Obama administration's landmark hydraulic fracturing rule last fall, the Interior Department and environmental allies unleashed their full counterattack." According to the article, "in opening briefs before the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, government and environmental lawyers railed against the Wyoming district court's preliminary injunction of the fracking rule, calling it a legal error that ignored federal law and precedent." Justice Department lawyers representing BLM contended that "the Mineral Leasing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and other statutes give Interior broad authority over development on public and American Indian lands."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/22, Cama, 862K).

BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON METHANE RULES. [Politico Pro](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM on Tuesday "extended by two weeks its comment period on proposed regulations for oil and gas companies to control methane generated during drilling on public lands." The new comment period for the rules ends April 22.

Additional coverage was provided by [Greenwire](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication).

BLM ADMITS MISTAKE ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEFERRAL OF CHACO OIL, GAS SALE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/22, 31K) reports that "a voicemail from a Bureau of Land Management project manager announcing the deferral of a 2,122-acre oil and gas lease sale on sacred land near Chaco Canyon prompted environmental groups on Tuesday to send out a news release lauding the decision." But "the celebration was short-lived, as hours later, BLM officials admitted an internal error." Spokeswoman Donna Hummel said, "We have not made a decision. I'm not sure where that came from." According to Hummel, "confusion among new staff members led to the mix up."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (3/23, 69K).

LANDOWNER GROUP ASKS REGULATORS TO ORDER RECLAMATION LIABILITY CHANGES. [Nation](#) (3/22, Zoe Carpenter, 367K) reports on how the collapse of Big Coal has left behind damage that "self-bonded" coal companies will not have funds to clean up after filing for bankruptcy. Wyoming's Powder River Basin Resource (PRBR) council filed a complaint Monday with the state Department of Environmental Quality and the federal Office of Surface Mining "asking regulators to order Peabody to underwrite its reclamation liability via real bonds." PRBR Attorney Shannon Anderson is quoted saying, "We're just trying to get money on the table that's guaranteed for clean up work."

Additional coverage was provided by the [WyoFile](#) (3/22).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CANCELLATION OF BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASE. Additional coverage of the cancellation of the Badger-Two Medicine lease was provided by [CNS News](#) (3/23, 122K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ILLINOIS AG MADIGAN DEMANDS PEABODY PROVE IT CAN PAY FUTURE CLEANUP COSTS. Additional coverage that Illinois attorney general Lisa Madigan has "expressed her doubts about Peabody Energy Corporation's ability to meet \$92 million of future land reclamation costs, given the immense financial distress the coal miner faces" was provided by [Bidness Etc.](#) (3/22, 15K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BIDS FOR GULF OF MEXICO LEASE AUCTION TO BE ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY. The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (3/22, 96K) reports that "bids were collected from oil and gas industry representatives through Tuesday morning on 45 million acres of Gulf of Mexico leases off the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coastlines." According to the article, "Central Planning Area Lease Sale 241 and Eastern Planning Area Lease Sale 226 bids were scheduled to be opened and read Wednesday morning, the ninth and 10th offshore sales under a five-year plan ending in 2017." Janice Schneider, assistant secretary for Land and Minerals

Management, and Mike Celata, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Mexico regional director, will open bids and announce results.

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (3/23, 4M) and the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (3/23, 1.12M).

INTERIOR ASKED BY SCIENTISTS TO KEEP CALIFORNIA FRACKING BAN. [Greenwire](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication) reports that "prominent scientists and ocean conservationists" on Tuesday called on the Interior Department "to keep in place the moratorium on fracking and other well stimulation techniques offshore from California until more scientific data is in." A letter signed by more than 30 scientists was delivered Tuesday morning to the heads of the BOEM and the BSEE, "urging them to continue the temporary ban until an environmental impact statement is complete."

US, BP LOOK TO \$20 BILLION OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT APPROVAL. The [AP](#) (3/22, McGill) reports that Tuesday, federal lawyers requested a New Orleans judge approve last year's \$20 billion agreement between the Department of Justice and five states to "resolve" the 2010 Gulf oil spill case. US District Judge Carl Barbier said BP was "grossly negligent" in the rig explosion but "did not immediately rule in the government motion," which included thousands of pages. The Justice Department wrote in a news release that it "is confident that the proposed settlement is a fair resolution of this case," and that the agreement is the biggest US environmental settlement ever. BP also looks forward to the approval of the settlement, a spokesman saying, "This is another step toward finalizing the historic settlement, and we await a decision by the Court."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. Additional coverage of the proposed a five-year draft plan for offshore drilling was provided by [Connect Savannah \(GA\)](#) (3/22, 14K), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/22, 74K), the [Burlington \(NC\) Times-News](#) (3/22, 53K), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (3/23, 89K), the [Coastal Review](#) (3/22), and [Rigzone](#) (3/22, 8K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. Additional coverage that the BOEM has "released proposed regulations that would provide additional clarity and certainty for its Marine Minerals Program regarding negotiated, non-competitive leases for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) resources such as sand, gravel and shell" was provided by [Marine Link](#) (3/22, 1K) and [Marine Technology](#) (3/22).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BSEE ASSISTS IN OPENING OIL SPILL RESPONSE TEST BURN TANK. Additional coverage that the BSEE has "assisted in opening the oil spill response test burn facility at the Joint Maritime Test Detachment in Mobile, Alabama" was provided by [Offshore Technology](#) (3/22).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BILL WOULD STRIP FEDERAL OFFICIALS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT POWERS. [Talking Points Memo](#) (3/22, 303K) reports that "with dozens of anti-government extremists facing criminal charges over their roles in the two high-profile Bundy showdowns over public lands, Republicans in Congress have rolled out proposed legislation that would diminish the authority of federal agencies to enforce federal public lands law." The legislation, the Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act of 2016, was "introduced last week by Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) along with the rest of Utah's Republican delegation: Reps. Mia Love, Rob Bishop and Chris Stewart." The bill would "strip officials in the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of their authority to enforce laws regulating federal land."

COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MEET ON GROUSE HABITAT MAPPING. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (3/23, 32K) reports on a meeting by local governments in northwest Colorado and the Colorado wildlife agency to "better map the habitat of the greater sage-grouse" in the hope that "the new habitat mapping will be considered by the Bureau of Land Management." The Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado began collecting resources to support detailed habitat mapping last year, after learning of "BLM's willingness to possibly alter habitat mapping as new data becomes available." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announcement last year that the greater sage-grouse would not be granted protection under the federal Endangered Species Act sparked similar discussions about the need for sage-grouse habitat conservation.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS TO RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS. Additional coverage that BLM is seeking public nominations for open positions on 34 Resource Advisory

Councils was provided by the [San Juan \(WA\) Islander](#) (3/22, 418) and the [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (3/23, 22K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TIMBER PAYMENTS TO OREGON COUNTIES DROP TO RECORD LOW.

Additional coverage that "federal payments to Oregon timber counties continue shrinking year-over-year" was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/22, 180K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RECEIVES \$1 MILLION BUDGET BOOST. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/22, 290K) reports that the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge will "receive \$1 million a year from the federal government to support education and community engagement programs," FWS Director Dan Ashe and Sen. Martin Heinrich announced Tuesday. That figure will be "in addition to the refuge's annual \$250,000 budget." According to Ashe, "Valle de Oro is the first urban wildlife refuge in the Southwest and the third in the U.S. to receive an annual \$1 million boost to their budgets in perpetuity."

Additional coverage was provided by [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (3/22, 69K) and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (3/22, 1K).

FWS DISTRIBUTES NEARLY \$50 MILLION TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

[AmmoLand](#) (3/22, 9K) reports that the FWS has announced nearly \$50 million in funding allocated to state wildlife agencies through the State Wildlife Grants program. FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "State wildlife agencies are critical in protecting America's wild places and the animals that live there. These funds are an important component in their conservation and management efforts, and one that the Service is proud to help support. By working together with these and other partners, I am confident we can effectively conserve our nation's natural legacy on a landscape scale for current and future generations of Americans."

HUNTING PROVIDES \$15 MILLION FOR WILDLIFE RESTORATION IN OREGON IN 2016. The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (3/22, 32K) reports that the FWS announced that "taxes on hunters will provide more than \$15 million to fund wildlife conservation in Oregon this year." The money, "generated by taxes on firearms and ammunition, is part of the Pittman-Robertson fund and provides funding to each state for wildlife restoration." In a release, FWS Director Dan Ashe noted, "It's fitting that those very sporting activities help sustain wildlife, their habitats and the agencies that manage them."

FWS PROPOSES DOWNGRADING MANATEES FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED. The [Daily Mail](#) (3/22, 4.92M) reports the FWS is proposing to downgrade West Indian manatees from "endangered" to "threatened," based on their "ballooning population size." A decision would apply to all West Indian manatees in the region, and is expected in 2017. FWS spokesman Chuck Underwood is quoting saying if a change is announced, "the public would see no differences in our conservation and protection efforts."

STUDY: REMOVING INVASIVE MAMMALS FROM ISLANDS WILL HELP NATIVE SPECIES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/22, Greene, 4.1M) reports in its "Science Now" section that introducing intruders "like rodents, feral cats and goats" on islands can result in native species that have no natural predators going extinct. A study led by Holly Jones, a conservation biologist at Northern Illinois University, said "you can help a lot of the world's biodiversity by removing" invasive mammals. Jones and 29 other scientists "reviewed hundreds of mammal eradication projects on 181 islands" and discovered that in "251 such efforts over several decades, 236 native species got a boost when the uninvited guests were removed from the habitat." According to results published this week in the Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences, only seven species "suffered after the invasive species were removed."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WORRY ADDING MONARCH BUTTERFLY TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST MAY BACKFIRE.

[Watchdog](#) (3/22, Boehm, 3K) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Food Safety filed a joint lawsuit this month calling for the Fish and Wildlife Service to add the monarch butterfly to the endangered species list. George Kimbrell, senior attorney at the Center for Food Safety, said, "Protecting monarch butterflies under the Endangered Species Act is essential to their survival." However, by adding the butterfly to the list, it would also require new regulations for the milkweed plant, which is essential to the butterfly's survival. A conservationist warns that if the government deems milkweed part of a critical habitat, it would mean destroying it would become a crime punishable by fines or mitigation. As a result, less people will plant milkweed for fear of getting in trouble with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

WORK CONTINUES ON EXPANSION OF SPRING CREEK GREENWAY. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/22, Peyton, 1.99M) reports that “as work continues on expanding the Spring Creek Greenway, crews are removing thousands of tires that have been found in the area from years of debris dumping in the forest.” Harris County Precinct 4 received a \$500,000 Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant from FWS about three years ago “to help with the project.”

ANOTHER BALD EAGLE FOUND DEAD IN DELAWARE. The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Hedgpeth, 8.98M) reports that “authorities said they’ve found another dead eagle in Delaware now bringing the number of dead birds found there to five.” According to the article, “the fifth dead eagle was found Sunday about a mile away from where four others were found the day before near Dagsboro, Del.” Delaware Natural Resources police along with the FWS are investigating.

TAKEPART HOSTING ANNUAL ENDANGERED SPECIES BRACKET GAME. [Take Part](#) (3/22, Cardoni, 145K) is hosting “Rare & Ready to Be Saved,” the website’s annual game that allows visitors to vote for their favorite endangered animals in a bracket of 16 candidates. TakePart said it will donate \$1 to the Endangered Species Coalition, “up to \$5,000, for every 10 votes received.” The nonprofit will use the money to “safeguard endangered species and their habitats.” The article mentions, in relation to the endangered red wolf, that a 13-person panel convened by the Fish and Wildlife Service this month “adjourned without coming to a consensus on the agency’s Red Wolf Recovery Program.”

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CELEBRATES 113TH ANNIVERSARY. The [Port Clinton \(OH\) Beacon](#) (3/22) reports that “March 14 was the 113th anniversary of the founding of the National Wildlife Refuge System which began when President Teddy Roosevelt established Pelican Island as a permanent refuge.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MILITARY POSTPONES TORTOISE RELOCATION PLAN. Additional coverage that officials with the Marine Corps at Twentynine Palms have postponed the tortoise relocation plan was provided by [Southern California Public Radio](#) (3/22, 75K) and the [Marine Corps Times](#) (3/22, 153K).

National Park Service:

SUPREME COURT SENDS MOOSE HUNTER’S CASE BACK TO NINTH CIRCUIT. The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Barnes, 8.98M) reports the Supreme Court “delivered a unanimous victory” to Alaskan businessman John Sturgeon, who had sought to use a hovercraft to travel through federal property to his favorite moose hunting ground. Although the justices did not decide whether Sturgeon could use the vehicle, they ruled that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had not considered “vital issues of state sovereignty, on the one hand, and federal authority, on the other,” in the case and sent the case back to the lower court.

In an editorial, the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (3/23, 42K) says that “whatever the ultimate outcome of Mr. Sturgeon’s case, the recognition of Alaska’s special legal status with regard to disposition of lands and the direction that such a status must be addressed rather than sidestepped as the 9th Circuit Court originally did is a positive step for the state.” It concludes that “if the courts recognize and honor those legal differences in the way Alaska’s lands are dealt with, it will result in rulings that reflect the intent of those who fought hard for the state’s status and standing in such matters.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (3/23, Subscription Publication, 705), [Greenwire](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication), [The Hill](#) (3/22, Wheeler, 862K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/22, Joling, 285K), [Reuters](#) (3/22, Hurley), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/22, 881K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/22, 1.99M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/22, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/22, Press, 8.98M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/22, Medred, 3.71M), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/22, 4.92M).

HOUSE APPROVES COLTSMVILLE NATIONAL PARK FIX. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (3/22) reports that the U.S. House of Representatives voted on Tuesday “to provide a fix to the legislation establishing the Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford.” Sen. Richard Blumenthal has “sponsored similar legislation in the Senate.” The measure was “approved by a key Senate committee last week, but not yet by the full Senate.”

REP. POLIQUIN OPPOSES EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING MAINE MONUMENT. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/21, 173K) reports that Rep. Bruce Poliquin “argued against a North Woods national monument proposed for east of Baxter State Park when he met with White House officials on Monday.” Poliquin “warned the White House that a presidential executive order creating a monument would threaten Maine’s forest products industries and was opposed by Mainers living near Baxter, he said.” Following the meeting with White House

Council on Environmental Quality Managing Director Christy Goldfuss and her staff, Poliquin said, "It is wrong for any president to create a new federal footprint in Maine against the will of the people. It is not right. It is not fair."

CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON. The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Stein, 8.98M) reports that "an estimated 1.5 million people" celebrate cherry blossom season in Washington D.C. The NPS "expects the cherry blossoms to hit peak bloom around March 23 and remain in bloom for four to 10 days."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/23, 1.1M).

FLORIDA NUCLEAR PLANT LEAK MOVING TOWARD WATER WELLS. The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports environmentalists said Tuesday that they plan to sue Florida Power & Light for violating the Clean Water Act following a recent report that the company's cooling canal system at its Turkey Point nuclear reactor was flooding Biscayne Bay with water that registered "elevated levels of salt, ammonia, phosphorous and tritium, a radioactive isotope." The company's spokesman Robert Gould said the elevated chemical levels pose "no risk to the bay or to the drinking water." However, Florida Administrative Judge Bram Canter "chastised" Florida Power last month, finding that the cooling canal system is "the major contributing cause" of the growth of the underground saltwater plume and its movement toward drinking water well fields.

SAN MATEO COUNTY RESIDENTS OPPOSE CHANGES TO GGNRA DOG POLICIES. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/23, Colliver, 3.37M) reports "the vast majority of residents" at a Sam Mateo County hearing Tuesday were in opposition to changes to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's off-leash dog policy that would "severely" curtail areas where owners could walk dogs and run them off-leash.

GRANT WILL FUND SMOKIES EDUCATION PROGRAM. The [Sevierville \(TN\) Mountain Press](#) (3/22, 27K) reports that "more students will be able to use Great Smoky Mountains National Park as an outdoor classroom thanks to a recent \$21,500 grant awarded to Friends of the Smokies." According to the article, "the bulk of the grant from the Richard Haiman National Parks Foundation goes toward the nonprofit's Parks As Classrooms program, which reaches approximately 18,000 students each year." It adds that "a small portion of the grant, \$1,500, will be used to resupply privies at two backcountry shelters."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BILL WOULD DESIGNATE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS DISTRICT AS NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage that Rep. Terri Sewell introduced a bill Monday to designate Birmingham's Civil Rights District as a unit of the National Park Service system was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/22, Lucas, 285K), [USA Today](#) (3/22, Berry, 5.45M), and [WBMA-TV Birmingham \(AL\)](#) Birmingham, AL (3/23, 85K).

US Geological Survey:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SEISMOLOGIST LUCY JONES RETIRING FROM USGS. Additional coverage that seismologist Lucy Jones is retiring from the USGS was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/22, 3.37M).

Top National News:

OBAMA CALLS FOR UNITY AGAINST ISIL AS GOP CANDIDATES BLAST HIS ANTI-TERROR STRATEGY. The brutal terrorist attacks in Brussels are receiving saturation coverage from US media outlets, which highlight both the President's remarks yesterday and the searing criticism of his policies by GOP presidential candidates. In addition to lambasting Obama's anti-terror efforts, Donald Trump generated extensive – and mostly negative – coverage with his renewed call to ban Muslims from entering the US and his vow to respond to terrorism with "a lot more than waterboarding." Sen. Ted Cruz also sparked controversy yesterday with his call for "law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods."

For Obama, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, A1, Jaffe, 8.98M) this morning on its front page, the attacks "pose the worst kind of foreign policy dilemma," as they pit "his instincts, which tell him that he's doing all he can to defeat the Islamic State, against intense political pressure to do more." The Post notes US officials believe their strategy is working, though it cites an unnamed "senior administration official" who says that the battle against ISIL "may be the most complicated conflict of our generation." At any rate, adds the Post, "the test for Obama is whether he can simultaneously communicate resolve and the need for restraint in Iraq and Syria amid new terror

attacks and one of the most bitter and divisive political campaigns in recent history.”

AFP (3/22) reports that Obama said in Havana, “We must be together regardless of nationality or race or faith in fighting against the scourge of terrorism. We can and we will defeat those who threaten the safety and security of people all around the world.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/22, Lavender, 518K) also noted Obama’s comments, as does [Reuters](#) (3/22). [USA Today](#) (3/22, Korte, 5.45M) notes that Obama “spoke to Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel,” offered “the condolences of the American people” and “offered US assistance in investigating the attacks.” Interviewed by ESPN “while he was watching the Tampa Bay Rays play the Cuban national team in baseball, Obama echoed his earlier call for unity against terror,” saying, “We will continue with the 60 nations going after” ISIL.

[Salon](#) (3/22, Tesfaye, 837K) said in its analysis that while Obama’s “message of optimism and progress in the face of another terror attack were remarkably well received by the Cuban audience, conservatives back home were less impressed.” For starters, [The Hill](#) (3/22, Hattem, 862K) reported, “in light of Tuesday morning’s violence,” Cruz and Gov. John Kasich urged Obama to curtail his visit to Cuba, and Trump, on Twitter, said the President “looks and sounds so ridiculous making his speech in Cuba, especially in the shadows of Brussels.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) argues that the tragic attacks in Belgium are a consequence of the failure to destroy ISIL – which in turn creates a perception among radicalized Muslims that the terror group is winning its war against the West. A second [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial criticizes Obama’s rhetoric on terrorism, which it casts as a dangerous return to a pre-9/11 mindset.

In his “Talking Points Memo” segment on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (3/22, 767K), Bill O’Reilly echoed those views, saying, “It is simply incredible that on this planet a jihadist group comprised of about 30,000 savages can wreak this much destruction and still sit down to dinner tonight without any fear of reprisal. Think about it. We all know where the ISIS thugs are. Syria, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan and now Afghanistan. Their movements are not secret. They wage active military campaigns. And, yet, President Obama and the leaders of the NATO nations have done little to neutralize this threat to the world.” O’Reilly added, “The world needs to be mobilized. But in order to do that, a strong leader must sound the alarm. Barack Obama is not that person, nor is Angela Merkel or David Cameron or any of the other European chiefdoms. Right now there is no one willing to stand up to this ISIS scourge.”

Under the headline “Trump On Brussels Attacks: I Told You So,” [Politico](#) (3/22, Mccaskill, 1.07M) reports that “Trump, who infamously called for a temporary ban on Muslims in December following terror attacks, and previously called Brussels a ‘hellhole,’ again called for increased border security.” Scott Canon of the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (3/22, Canon, 608K) says “the deaths in Brussels had Trump in his usual tough-guy stance,” arguing that “such an attack...shows why the country needs to seal its borders, especially against Muslims.” Trump told Fox, “Assimilation is very, very difficult and in some cases impossible.” Trump also “suggested the immigration of Muslims to Brussels, capital to both Belgium and the European Union, had destroyed the city’s character and created an incubator for budding terrorists.” Trump also told NBC, “Waterboarding would be fine and if they could expand the laws, I would do a lot more than waterboarding.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Nossiter, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) also noted those comments on its website, while the [Washington Times](#) (3/22, Sherfinski, 285K) quotes Trump as telling Fox, “We can’t have these attacks anymore. We can’t have World Trade Centers anymore, and...planes flying into the Pentagon.” [The Hill](#) (3/22, Hattem, 862K) reported that Hillary Clinton “quickly shot back, calling Trump’s proposal ‘unrealistic.’”

The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Sanger, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that “Clinton, while positioned at the hawkish end of the Democratic race, sounded mild compared with the Republicans scrambling to say how they would interrogate Muslims or separate them from the rest of the population.” The Brussels attacks, writes the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, 8.98M) in an editorial, have “revealed a crucial divide among US presidential candidates” between “those who support the internationalist response of...Obama” – Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders and John Kasich – and “the radical isolationism of...Trump,” who has made “America’s commitment to its European allies is at issue in a presidential campaign.”

[Roll Call](#) (3/22, Roarty, 126K) noted, meanwhile, that Sen. Ted Cruz “called for tightening US borders to visitors from abroad, as well as better monitoring of Muslim residents here,” saying, “We need to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized.” [Politico](#) (3/22, Mccaskill, Collins, 1.07M) and the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Zezima, 8.98M), among other news outlets, ran

online reports on Cruz's words, while the [AP](#) (3/22, Salama) reports that the Council on American-Islamic Relations "condemned Cruz's call for surveillance, saying it sends 'an alarming message to American-Muslims who increasingly fear for their future in this nation and to all Americans who value the Constitution and religious liberties.'"

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (3/22, Kaplan, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) noted that Kasich "cautioned against monitoring Muslim-Americans after the attacks in Brussels, saying that such a step would create division and harm the country's ability to gather intelligence." The [Washington Times](#) (3/22, Sherfinski, 285K) quotes Kasich as saying, "We are not at war with Islam – we're at war with radical Islam."

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/22, 518K) noted that Cruz also criticized Obama "for what he sees as the president's refusal to acknowledge radical Islam due to excessive political correctness." Said Cruz, "We need a president who sets aside political correctness. ... In the wake of Brussels, we don't need another lecture from President Obama on Islamophobia, we need a commander in chief."

To the [Huffington Post](#) (3/22, Frej, 518K), the comments by Trump and Cruz were an "eerie reminder of the hateful rhetoric that abounded in the wake of the November attacks on Paris, when more than half of US governors demanded to stop all Syrian refugee arrivals." In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (3/22, 5.45M) argues that with "his usual venom against Muslims," Trump "unwittingly" helps "ISIS and other extremists sell their own claim that the US and other Western countries hate Muslims and are united in a modern crusade against them."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/22, 1.53M) the President "gave the terror bombing 51 seconds of his speech...today in Havana. I thought the whole story of his presidency and its foreign policy was seen in the split screen. On one side you had the video footage of the attack in Belgium. This is the real world. And on the other side was Obama in a fantasy world he inhabits where Cuba is of some geopolitical significance – in his mind but none in the real world. If Cuba disappeared tomorrow in a volcanic eruption, nobody would notice geopolitically. But Obama had to go. Because this is legacy. This is settling the Cold War arguments of the academic left of Obama's Columbia University days."

Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, appeared to echo Obama's message in her own statement on the tragedy. [Reuters](#) (3/22) notes that she said, "Today's attacks will only strengthen our resolve to stand together as allies and defeat terrorism and radical jihadism around the world."

On its website early this morning, the [Washington Post](#) (3/23, Wagner, 8.98M) reports that during a Tuesday appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!", Sen. Bernie Sanders was asked "why Americans seem to gravitate toward candidates who talk the toughest after episodes like [Tuesday's terror attacks in] Brussels." Sanders said, "I think people get afraid, and for good reasons," adding, "ISIS is a disgusting, barbaric organization. ... But what we have to understand is we're not going to undermine the constitution of the United States of America."

OBAMA CALLS FOR BURYING "LAST REMNANTS" OF COLD WAR, APPEALS FOR DEMOCRACY IN CUBA. Coverage of President Obama's historic [speech](#) in Havana's Gran Teatro was overshadowed by the horrific terrorist attacks in Brussels, which are receiving saturation coverage in US media. All coverage of the address on the network newscasts, for example, was limited to Obama's comments about terrorism. But while the speech is not getting top billing, it is generating very favorable media reviews. Noted in virtually every account and analysis – and alluded to in many headlines – is the following Obama comment, "I have come here to bury the last remnants of the Cold War in the Americas." Moreover, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/22, Talev, Doming, 289K) reports that "noting that critics in the US had demanded he deliver a speech along the lines of Ronald Reagan's call on the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to 'tear down' the Berlin Wall, Obama made it clear he instead wanted to encourage Cubans to 'lift something up, build something new.'" Said the President, "In the United States we have a clear monument to what the Cuban people can build. ... It's called Miami."

The [New York Times](#) (3/23, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) describes the speech as "a full-throated plea for Cuba's autocratic government to change," [The Hill](#) (3/22, Fabian, 862K) highlights Obama's "hopeful message," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/22, Parsons, Linthicum, 4.1M) casts it as "an impassioned appeal for democracy." The Times notes that "when the speech concluded, Obama mouthed the words 'thank you' toward [Raul] Castro's place in the balcony, and Castro stood to applaud the American president." Meanwhile, "in the streets of Havana, spontaneous celebrations also erupted."

[Reuters](#) (3/22, Mason, Spetalnick) quotes Obama as saying, "I believe citizens should be free to speak their minds without fear. ... Voters should be able to choose their governments in free and democratic elections."

Added the President, "Not everybody agrees with me on this, not everybody agrees with the American people on this but I believe those human rights are universal. I believe they're the rights of the American people, the Cuban people and people around the world."

Highlighting the historic nature of the speech, [AFP](#) (3/22, Beatty, Smith) indicates that "it was the first time a US president had been allowed to give a speech aired live on Cuba's strictly controlled state television," and that "Cubans watching at home or in bars were enthusiastic." [USA Today](#) (3/22, Gomez, 5.45M) says "Cubans throughout this capital city praised Obama's speech," and the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Miroff, 8.98M) recounts the reaction to the speech by Marta Limas and her family in Havana. The Cuban family enthusiastically echoed Obama's calls for "change," though the Post also notes that the Limas "hushed and seemed to hold their breath when Obama's words directly challenged their leaders, especially as the US president called for democratic elections." The [AP](#) (3/22, Pace, Weissenstein) similarly reports that "on the streets of Havana, the president's address sparked extraordinarily rare public discussions about democracy, and some anger with Cuba's leaders."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, A1, Eilperin, Deyoung, 8.98M) says on its front page this morning that the speech "was like nothing Cubans here have heard in many years," and describes it as "vintage Obama, quoting Martin Luther King Jr. and professing his own faith in human possibility." He even "added pointed references to Cuban independence hero José Martí, who he said defined liberty as 'the right of every man to be honest, to think and to speak without hypocrisy.'" The [Miami Herald](#) (3/22, Clark, 803K) calls Obama's remarks "powerful" and "both conciliatory and tough," and notes Obama's call on Cuba's "ruling party...to listen to its people." Said Obama, "I believe citizens should be free to speak their mind without fear, to organize and to criticize their government and to protest peacefully. ... And that the rule of law should not include arbitrary detentions of people who exercise those rights. ... And yes, I believe voters should be able to choose their governments in free and democratic elections."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/22, Boyer, 285K) reports that Obama "said Tuesday he wants Congress to lift the embargo against Havana to help ordinary Cubans." Obama called it "an outdated burden on the Cuban people." According to [USA Today](#) (3/22, Korte, 5.45M), Obama "received sustained applause...when he called on Congress to lift the embargo," but "applause was more subdued when he continued, saying that 'even if we lifted the embargo tomorrow, Cubans would not realize their potential without continued change here in Cuba.'" Those words "received approval only from the corners of the theater." [Wired](#) (3/22, 3.82M) reported that during the speech, Obama also "called for the island nation to expand Internet access across the country, calling the Internet 'one of the greatest engines of growth in human history.'"

The speech, said [The Atlantic](#) (3/22, Berman, 2.95M), "was a lengthy balancing act for the president: He offered praise both for Cuban artists and innovators and the Cuban government, and he wrapped criticism of America's own flaws into a broad defense of its open society and democratic values." For example, [NPR](#) (3/22, Peralta, 1.81M) reported on its website, Obama acknowledged "the many struggles of American democracy – how it is still dealing with the scars of slavery, how there is too much money in politics." The President "used himself as an example of why a democratic system works," telling his audience that "when he was born, he said, it would have been illegal for his mother and father to marry" – and yet he went on to be elected president.

Moreover, [Voice of America](#) (3/22, Salinas, 60K) reported, "speaking directly to Castro, Obama said, 'You do not need to fear a threat from the United States,' adding the Cuban government also does not need have to fear the voices of the Cuban people."

Writer Fabiola Santiago writes in the [Miami Herald](#) (3/22, Santiago, 803K), "Bravo, Mr. President, bravo. You said to the Cuban people – and to the despotic government that rules them – everything that needed to be said. ... What a lesson." Adds Santiago, "In a masterful way, you showed Cubans why a democratic, open market system makes for a more prosperous society – and you urged them to consider this for themselves."

Obama Meets With Dissidents. [USA Today](#) (3/22, Korte, Gomez, 5.45M) reports that Obama "met with dissidents and civil society leaders at the US embassy in Havana Tuesday, saying they've shown 'extraordinary courage' in the face of large-scale detentions of political prisoners by the Castro regime." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/22, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) quotes Obama as saying after the meeting, "This is an area where we continue to have deep differences with the Cuban government. ... My hope is that by listening and hearing from [dissidents], we can continue to refine our policy in such a way that ultimately the Cuban people are able to live freely and prosperously."

With the meeting, says the [Miami Herald](#) (3/22, Mazzei, 803K), Obama gave the dissidents "the highest level of recognition they've ever received in their own country." The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Robles, Subscription

Publication, 12.03M) notes "the frank meeting ended only when Mr. Obama's aides ushered him out to reach the Estadio Latinoamericano in time for the first pitch of the Cuban national baseball team's game against the Tampa Bay Rays," and that "activists who participated in the meeting at the United States Embassy praised Mr. Obama for taking time during his visit to Cuba to hear them out."

[Politico](#) (3/22, Mccaskill, 1.07M) notes that "according to the White House, dissidents and civil society leaders included Miriam Celaya Gonzales and Manuel Cuesta Morua, both of whom sat beside Obama at the roundtable, where Obama acknowledged that he had already met some of the dissidents in past trips to Miami and Panama." Secretary of State Kerry "was also in attendance, as were Obama advisers Susan Rice, Valerie Jarrett and Ben Rhodes, and Amb. Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Roberta Jacobson and Mark Feierstein."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/23, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) praises the "humility and grace" of Obama's speech at the Gran Teatro, and notes that "leading Cuban dissidents who met with Mr. Obama at the American Embassy after the speech described his visit as a transformational moment."

Protester Arrested After Baseball Game. The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, 8.98M) editorializes that "the real test of Mr. Obama's thaw is not to be found in the pomp and circumstance of his visit, but in whether it leads to a Cuba that is freer and more open after Air Force One has departed." However, the [Miami Herald](#) (3/22, Wyss, 803K) reports that "after broadcasting Tuesday's historic baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban national team, ESPN got a taste of the political reality on the streets of Havana." During "post-game analysis, a protester burst into the frame throwing leaflets, demanding the right to free speech and shouting 'down with the Castros.'" The Herald adds that "within minutes, plain-clothes policemen had packed into him a marked car [sic]."

Castro Saw Obama Off At Airport. The [AP](#) (3/22) reports that Castro showed up "on the tarmac at Jose Marti International Airport to see...Obama off after a whirlwind three-day trip that began with some interpreting a snub when Castro did not greet Air Force One."

Ryan: Trip Legitimizes Castro Regime. [Reuters](#) (3/22) reports House Speaker Ryan yesterday criticized Obama's trip to Cuba, arguing that it legitimizes the Castros' "tyrannical dictatorship."

Clinton Defends Obama Visit To Cuba Despite Chesimard Case. The [New York Post](#) (3/22, Hicks, 2.92M) reports that Hillary Clinton "is defending...Obama's decision to open up relations with Cuba without making the return of notorious cop-killer JoAnne Chesimard part of the deal." Clinton told CNN this week, "Having been involved in some of those negotiations when I was still Secretary of State, you push as hard as you can to get as much as you can. I support the President's efforts to move the relationship forward."

Richard Cohen Blasts Obama's Cuba Trip. Richard Cohen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Cohen, 8.98M), "The pictures of Obama in Havana show him smiling. But what is so funny? He went to a small, unimportant nation as a beggar." Obama "wanted to put the Cold War behind him, but he put the prestige of the presidency behind him as well," because Cuba "is a rotten dictatorship, an abuser of human rights, and there was no need for Obama to go there."

Chinese Media Sounds Skeptical Note On Obama's Cuba Visit. The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Hemández, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that if Obama "was looking for encouragement after his meeting with...Castro of Cuba in Havana, the Chinese news media was not the place to find it." Xinhua headlined its report "Rapprochement with Cuba requires renunciation of US arrogance," and an editorial in China Daily saw a "long road ahead for US-Cuba ties after visit." Meanwhile, "in response to Mr. Obama's promise of a 'new day' of openness between Cuba and the United States...several Chinese commentators, officials and foreign policy experts expressed caution," though "others praised Mr. Obama's decision to bring an end to nearly six decades of tensions."

CLINTON PADS LEAD WITH BIG WIN IN ARIZONA; SANDERS TAKES IDAHO, UTAH. Hillary Clinton on Tuesday cruised to [victory](#) over Sen. Bernie Sanders in Arizona's Democratic presidential primary, expanding her lead in delegates. Sanders, however, defeated Clinton in the caucus states of Idaho and Utah. With over 80% of the vote tallied in Arizona, Clinton led Sanders 58.4%-39.2%. There were 75 delegates, which are awarded proportionally, up for grabs in Arizona. In Idaho, Sanders defeated Clinton 78%-21.2%. There were 27 delegates, which are awarded proportionally, up for grabs in Idaho. With over 15% of the vote tallied in Utah, Sanders led Clinton 74.1%-25.1%. There were 37 delegates, which are awarded proportionally, at stake in Utah. Reports and analyses this morning say that Tuesday's results moved Clinton closer to clinching the Democratic nomination.

[Politico](#) (3/22, Gass, 1.07M) reported Clinton “widened her already daunting lead over” Sanders “by crushing him in Arizona,” which “was the biggest prize of the night.” However, Sanders “easily dispatched Clinton in Utah and Idaho.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Gearan, Johnson, 8.98M) reports that Sanders “won handily in Utah and Idaho, but did little to improve his overall standing in the race for delegates,” according to the AP. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/23, Niquette, 289K) says that with her win in Arizona, Clinton “diminished the possibility of a resurgence by...Sanders to slow her march to the nomination.” The AP (3/23, Peoples) reports that Sanders’ wins in Idaho and Utah “kept Clinton...from dominating another election night, but” she maintains “a comfortable lead in the race for delegates.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Martin, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Clinton’s win “in Arizona, with its 75 delegates, not only extended her lead over Mr. Sanders, it also offered a psychological boost as she heads into a stretch of contests in states likely to favor Mr. Sanders, like Alaska and Washington, where losses could underscore her lingering vulnerabilities among Democrats.” On its website, [CNN](#) (3/23, Bradner, 3.96M) reported that in winning Arizona, “the biggest state on Tuesday’s slate,” Clinton continued to prove “she’s difficult to beat in states with sizeable minority populations. It was a particularly satisfying triumph for Clinton’s camp, which had worried because Sanders had largely camped out in the state in recent days, while the former secretary of state had held just one event – Monday in Phoenix.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/22, Foley, 518K) similarly said with her victory in Arizona, Clinton added “another win in a state with a large minority population.” The Post said Clinton “has consistently outperformed Sanders in states where a sizable proportion of Democratic voters are black or Latino, in spite of the senator’s efforts to win over minorities.” Likewise, [The Hill](#) (3/22, Swan, 862K) reported Clinton’s victory in Arizona “further demonstrates her strength over Sanders among minority voters,” while the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, Gearan, Johnson, 8.98M) calls the Arizona result a “blow” to Sanders, “who had staked a comeback on” the state.

The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Martin, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says Sanders, “who typically overwhelms Mrs. Clinton among independents,” was “potentially handicapp[ed]” by the fact that only registered Democrats could vote in Arizona’s primary. [USA Today](#) (3/22, Allen, 5.45M) says Sanders, speaking in San Diego after the AP projected Clinton’s win in Arizona, “cited ‘record-breaking turnouts’ in states that held contests Tuesday and said his campaign appealed to voters because ‘we are telling the truth.’”

TRUMP TROUNCES RIVALS IN ARIZONA; CRUZ WINS UTAH. GOP presidential frontrunner Donald Trump on Tuesday easily won Arizona’s winner-take-all Republican primary, capturing 58 delegates, while Sen. Ted Cruz romped to victory in Utah’s caucuses, gamering 40 delegates. With over 80% of precincts reporting in Arizona, Trump led with 47.1%, followed by Cruz at 24.2, Sen Marco Rubio – who dropped out of the race last week – at 13.9%, and Gov. John Kasich at 9.9%. With nearly 50% of the vote tallied in Utah, Cruz led with 69.4%, followed by Kasich at 16.6%, and Trump at 14%. Because Cruz exceeded the 50% mark, he collected all 40 of the delegates at stake in Utah. Those delegates would have been awarded proportionally had no candidate topped 50%. Reports and analyses this morning say that the Tuesday results further complicate Trump’s efforts to garner the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the GOP nomination outright, increasing the likelihood of a contested convention.

[Politico](#) (3/22, Goldmacher, 1.07M) says the GOP race “shifted to a new phase – trench warfare – as Donald Trump and Ted Cruz each won one state in Tuesday’s contests and dug in for an increasingly ugly battle that will now likely drag through the final primary in California, if not beyond.” [The Hill](#) (3/22, Easley, 862K) reported that Cruz and Trump split the two Tuesday contests, “making it harder for the billionaire front-runner to win enough delegates to avoid a contested convention.”

On its website, [CNN](#) (3/23, Bradner, 3.96M) reports that by winning all of Utah’s 40 delegates, Cruz stayed “within striking distance of Trump and bolster[ed] his argument that he deserves a one-on-one race against the GOP front-runner – even as Kasich shows no signs of exiting anytime soon.” The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/22, Nowicki, 975K) says that while Cruz triumphed in Utah, Trump “took the bigger prize in Arizona, a state he had courted.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/23, Niquette, 289K) says that while Cruz won all of Utah’s 40 delegates, Trump “continued to gain ground by taking all 58 delegates available in Arizona.” And the AP (3/23, Peoples) reports that Cruz’s win in Utah prevented Trump “from dominating another election night, but” the billionaire still holds “a comfortable lead in the race for delegates.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Martin, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says “Republicans hoping to stop Mr. Trump suffered another blow as he carried Arizona by a wide margin,” adding that his “easy” win “also provided a sharp rebuttal to assertions by Mr. Cruz that he would struggle in the remaining contests because so many of

them allow only Republicans to vote. Aided by Arizona's generous early-voting laws, Mr. Trump showed that he can win handily in states with closed Republican primaries, where Democrats and independents are barred from voting."

Reuters (3/22, Holland) says Trump easily won in Arizona, where his tough stance on immigration is popular with voters. The [Huffington Post](#) (3/22, Foley, 518K) says Trump won Arizona after promising to "build the state a 'beautiful' border wall and gaining support of...virulently anti-unauthorized immigration" Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County. Trump also had the support of former Gov. Jan Brewer, "who signed the state's 2010 law aimed at driving out undocumented people."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"Standing With Brussels Against Terrorism And Fear."* The [New York Times](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) in an editorial says "Brussels, Europe, the world must brace for a long struggle" and needs "intensified counterterrorism efforts and a far higher degree of cooperation." Belgium, it says, is "notoriously weak" in this area. Still, the Times warns against limiting "civil liberties and freedoms," saying that such efforts would "serve the terrorists' end." Instead it calls for making any "necessary" changes "cautiously." The Times concludes that the right response to the attacks is "a reaffirmation of core democratic values."

"Mr. Obama's Honest Message In Cuba." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/23, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) praises the "humility and grace" of President Obama's speech at the Gran Teatro, and notes that "leading Cuban dissidents who met with Mr. Obama at the American Embassy after the speech described his visit as a transformational moment."

"Waiting For Round 2 In The Phone Fight." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/23, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) writes that the Department of Justice's announcement it may not need Apple's help to unlock an iPhone used by a terrorist doesn't moot the issue of whether "courts have the power to compel businesses to undo the security of their products to help law enforcement get access to information." The Times goes on to warn against requiring "back doors" to access data on devices, explaining this "would render data less secure by making it easier for foreign and domestic intelligence agencies and criminals to conduct mass surveillance and steal trade secrets and personal data."

WASHINGTON POST. *"The Horror In Brussels Is A Rebuke To Trump's Foreign Policy."* The Brussels attacks, writes the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, 8.98M) in an editorial, have "revealed a crucial divide among US presidential candidates" between "those who support the internationalist response of...Obama" – Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders and John Kasich – and "the radical isolationism of...Trump," who has made "America's commitment to its European allies is at issue in a presidential campaign."

"The Real Test Of Obama's Thaw With Cuba." The [Washington Post](#) (3/22, 8.98M) editorializes that "the real test of Mr. Obama's thaw is not to be found in the pomp and circumstance of his visit, but in whether it leads to a Cuba that is freer and more open after Air Force One has departed."

"Another Weak Legal Challenge To Obamacare's Contraception Mandate." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/22, 8.98M) says the nonprofits challenging the ACA's contraception mandate in the case the Supreme Court will consider Wednesday "do not have a strong case," and argues while there is "no clean way to fully reconcile the government's interest in providing important preventative services and religiously affiliated groups' demand that they have no part in it," the law "does not require that the government bow to the wishes of every person or group claiming that obeying generally applicable laws, such as paying taxes, is a violation of their religious liberty." The law, the Post adds, "The law requires the government to go a long way to accommodate religious objections – and in this case, it has done so."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"From Syria To Brussels."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) argues that the tragic attacks in Belgium are a consequence of the failure to destroy ISIL – which in turn creates a perception among radicalized Muslims that the terror group is winning its war against the West.

"An Inordinate Fear Of Terrorism." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial criticizes President Obama's rhetoric on terrorism, which it casts as a dangerous return to a pre-9/11 mindset.

"The Encryption Meltdown." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/22, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes in

favor of a Congressionally-appointed panel of expert arbiters to resolve the encryption debate. The Justice Department's revelation Monday that a third party may be able to help the FBI came after months of insistence that unlocking the phone couldn't be done without Apple. This, according to the Journal, is further evidence that targeting Apple was less about counterterrorism than it was to set legal precedent for back-door encryption access that the FBI desires.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- [Europe On Alert After Bombings: Brussels Mourns At Least 30 Dead](#)
- [Obama To Cuba: Change](#)
- [Arizona Is Another Triumph For Trump](#)

Wall Street Journal:

- [Islamic State Claims Brussels Attacks](#)
- [Brussels Attacks Will Jolt 2016 US Presidential Race](#)
- [Attacks Highlight Belgian Failure To Roll Up Extremist Network](#)
- [Ackman Tries To Calm Investors On Valeant](#)

New York Times:

- [Attacks Underscore Europe's Vulnerability](#)
- [Presidential Candidates Walking A Tightrope Over The Fight On Terrorism](#)
- [Brussels Attacks Raise Questions On Readiness](#)
- [Apple Policy Could Explain Hackers' Choice To Aid FBI](#)
- [Ithaca's Anti-Heroin Plan: Open A Site To Shoot Heroin](#)

Washington Post:

- [Obama Faces New Pressure To Forsake His Instincts](#)
- [Trump's Wide-Ranging Stands Defy Much Of GOP's Doctrine](#)
- [Bombs Underline City's Status As A Center Of Islamist Extremism](#)
- [In Address To Cubans, Obama Calls For Fresh Start](#)
- [Islamic State Blasts Kill 31 In Brussels](#)

Financial Times:

- [Manhunt For Suspected Brussels Bomber](#)
- [C Suisse And Palantir Target Rogue Traders](#)

Washington Times:

- [Court Rebukes IRS For Tea Party Targeting](#)
- [Islamic State Manifests Its Might](#)
- [Sophisticated Bombings In Brussels Alarm Intel Officials](#)
- [Trump Policy Has Illegals Fleeing Back To Shadows](#)
- [Presidential Candidates' Reactions In U.S. Show Partisan Differences](#)
- [Belgians Sensed Danger After Terror Suspect's Arrest](#)
- [Disillusioned Brazilians Take Their Political Anger To Streets](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

- ABC:** Brussels Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Manhunt; Brussels Terror Attacks-Witnesses; Brussels Terror Attacks-Raids; Brussels Terror Attacks-US Security; Brussels Terror Attacks-President Obama Reaction; Brussels Terror Attacks-Presidential Candidate Reactions; President Obama-Cuba.
- CBS:** Brussels Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Investigation; Brussels Terror Attacks-Americans; Brussels Terror Attacks-Security; Brussels Terror Attacks-Analysis; Brussels Terror Attacks-Paris Similarities; Brussels Terror Attacks-ISIL; Brussels Terror Attacks-FBI Actions.
- NBC:** Brussels Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Manhunt; Brussels Terror Attacks-Americans; Brussels Terror Attacks-US Security; Brussels Terror Attacks-Analysis; Brussels Terror Attacks-President Obama Cuba; Brussels Terror Attacks-Presidential Candidate Responses; Former Toronto Mayor Death; Primary Elections; Brussels Terror Attacks-Grief.

Network TV At A Glance:

Brussels Terror Attacks – 52 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Brussels Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Manhunt; Brussels Terror Attacks-US Security; Brussels Terror Attack-President Obama; 2016 Politics-Primary Results;

CBS: Brussels Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Investigation Progress; 2016 Politics-Primary Election Results; NASA-International Space Station Shipment; President Obama-Cuba Visit; Asian Financial Markets.

NPR: 2016 Politics-Primary Results; Brussels Terror Attacks-Presidential Candidate Responses; Brussels Terror Attacks-Anti-Terrorism Proposal; NASA-International Space Station Shipment; Asian Stock Markets; President Obama-Cuba Visit; Secretary Kerry-Moscow Visit; West Virginia-Voter Identification Proposal.

FOX: Brussels Terror Attacks; Brussels Terror Attacks-Suicide Bombers; Brussels Terror Attacks-European Security Increases; Brussels Terror Attacks-British Prime Minister.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY’S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Visits Argentina with the first family; meets with President Mauricio Macri to discuss his reform agenda and recognize his contributions to the defense of human rights in the region; tours and lays a wreath at the Buenos Aires Metro Cathedral; holds a town hall meeting; attends a state dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled public events.

US Senate: 12:00 PM AAAS Capitol Hill briefings on FY 2017 budget request – American Association for the Advancement of Science hold Capitol Hill briefings to discuss proposed federal investments in scientific research and development in President Barack Obama’s Fiscal Year 2017 budget request. AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program Director Matt Hourihan speaks at Rm B369, Rayburn House Office Bldg (12:00 PM EDT) and Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg (3:00 PM EDT) Location: Washington, DC <http://www.aaas.org> https://twitter.com/AAAS_News

US House: 11:00 AM Bipartisan members of NY’s Congressional delegation speak against TPP – Bipartisan members of New York’s Congressional delegation speak in opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Over a dozen members of the delegation – including Reps. Louise Slaughter, Chris Collins, Jose Serrano, Jerrold Nadler, Tom Reed, Carolyn Maloney, Lee Zeldin, Nydia Velazquez, Brian Higgins, Paul Tonko, Chris Gibson, Sean Patrick Maloney, and Dan Donovan – are sending a letter to the Obama Administration opposing the deal Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.louise.house.gov/>

11:00 AM Speaker Ryan to Deliver Address on State of American Politics – House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) will deliver an address on the state of American politics. The address is open to House interns and members of the media only. Location: Ways and Means Committee Hearing Room 1100 Longworth House Office Building www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

9:00 AM House votes on Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 2745 – Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015’ * Administration has said it strongly opposes the bill, calling its proposed changes ‘unnecessary’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on administration plan to close Guantanamo Bay – Hearing on ‘The Administration’s Plan to Close the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility: At What Foreign Policy and National Security Cost?’, with testimony from State Department Special Envoy for Guantanamo Closure Lee Wolosky; and Department of Defense Special Envoy for Guantanamo Closure Paul Lewis * Last month, President Barack Obama announced his plan to close the facility, calling it ‘counterproductive to our fight against terrorists’ Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

12:00 PM AAAS Capitol Hill briefings on FY 2017 budget request – American Association for the Advancement of Science hold Capitol Hill briefings to discuss proposed federal investments in scientific research and development in President Barack Obama’s Fiscal Year 2017 budget request. AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program Director Matt Hourihan speaks at Rm B369, Rayburn House Office Bldg (12:00 PM EDT) and Rm 385,

Russell Senate Office Bldg (3:00 PM EDT) Location: Washington, DC <http://www.aas.org>
https://twitter.com/AAAS_News

9:00 AM House Homeland Security Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 4482, the Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act of 2016’, ‘H.R. 4509, the State and High-Risk Urban Area Working Group Act’, ‘H.R. 4549, the Treating Small Airports with Fairness Act of 2016’, ‘H.R. 4698, the Securing Aviation from Foreign Entry Points and Guarding Airports Through Enhanced Security Act of 2016’, ‘H.R. 4780, the Department of Homeland Security Strategy for International Programs Act’, ‘H.R. 4785, the DHS Stop Asset and Vehicle Excess Act’, ‘H.R. 4820, the Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016’ Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

9:00 AM House Oversight Committee hearing on BLM public lands leasing – Hearing on ‘Examining the Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Leasing’, with testimony from BLM Director Neil Kornze Location: Rm 2247, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

9:00 AM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on border security – National Security Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘National Security: Threats at Our Borders’, with testimony from Customs and Border Protection U.S. Border Patrol Acting Chief Ronald Vitiello; National Border Patrol Council President Brandon Judd; Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw; Temple University Beasley School of Law Professor Jan Ting; and Human Rights First Senior Director of Refugee Protection Eleanor Acer Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

9:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2017 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

9:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on the Office of Surface Mining – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Effect of the President’s FY 2017 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Office of Surface Mining on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy Production, State Programs and Deficit Reduction’, with testimony from Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement Director Joseph Pizarchik Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

9:30 AM House Small Business Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including ‘H.R. 4783, Commercializing on Small Business Innovation Act of 2016’ and ‘H.R. 207, Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2015’ Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

9:30 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on EPA Regional Haze Program – Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining EPA’s Regional Haze Program: Regulations Without Visible Benefits’, with testimony from Competitive Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow William Yeatman; Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers Executive Director Thomas Schroedter; environmental policy consultant Bruce Polkowsky; and Hunton & Williams partner Aaron Flynn Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi leads event marking the sixth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and members of the House Democratic Caucus hold press event to mark the sixth anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, celebrating reaching the milestone of 20 million previously-uninsured Americans now having health coverage thanks to the law Location: east front steps, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

10:00 AM Congressional briefing on immigration raids targeting unaccompanied children – Educators, community partners, and legal aid providers host Congressional briefing urging Members of Congress to ‘act immediately to address the myriad of issues impacting unaccompanied children seeking refuge in the U.S.’ and calling for an immediate end to ‘rocket dockets’ and deportations targeting unaccompanied children and other vulnerable individuals. Speakers include Texas AFT president Louis Malfaro, First Focus president Bruce Lesley, National Immigration Law Center executive director Marielena Hincapie, Kids in Need of Defense president Wendy Young, student Kelsey Rivas, Montgomery County, MD, councilwoman Nancy Navarro, and National Association of Immigration Judges president Dana Leigh Marks. Congressional Hispanic Caucus chair Rep. Linda Sanchez and fellow Democratic Rep. Zoe Lofgren also provide an update on the Fair Day in Court for Kids

Act Location: Rm 234, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.aft.org <https://twitter.com/AFTunion>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Smithsonian Institution budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Smithsonian Institution’, with testimony from Smithsonian Institution Secretary Dr David Skorton Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on CDC budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’, with testimony from CDC Director Dr Tom Frieden Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Western Sahara – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on ‘Human Rights Threatened, Self-Determination Deferred: The Status of Western Sahara’, examining the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and efforts thus far by MINURSO and U.N. Security Council Members – including the U.S. – to protect human rights and bring about a free and fair referendum on Western Sahara’s political status; examining the impact of incremental reforms within Western Sahara made by the Moroccan-led administration; and examining what other mechanisms may be used in providing human rights monitoring to the territory. Witnesses are Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights President Kery Kennedy, former U.N. Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Western Sahara Francesco Bastagli, Human Rights Watch MENA Division Deputy Director Eric Goldstein, and Western Sahara Resource Watch Chair Erik Hagen Location: Rm 1334, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCcommission>

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program – Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Update on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program and the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request’, with testimony from F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office Program Executive Officer Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan; Department of Defense Director of Operational Test & Evaluation Michael Gilmore; Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition Sean Stackley; and Governmental Accountability Office Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management Issues Michael Sullivan Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.amedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

12:00 PM Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus briefing on ‘How to Make New Drugs? Start with Basic Research!’ – Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus briefing on ‘How to Make New Drugs? Start with Basic Research!’, with Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research’s Dr Mark Fishman discussing ‘several current programs in drug discovery that promise to change the practice of medicine’ Location: Rms B-340, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.coalitionforlifesciences.org

4:00 PM Bipartisan Reps. Doris Matsui and Gregg Harper at ‘Connected Health Demo’ – ACT – The App Association ‘Connected Health Demo’, with mobile health companies showing how apps, sensors, and connected devices are ‘revolutionizing how doctors and patients interact and share information’. Democratic Rep. Doris Matsui and Republican Rep. Gregg Harper kick off the event Location: Rayburn Foyer, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC actonline.org <https://twitter.com/actonline>

Other: 8:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Hoyer and Reed at The Hill event – ‘Smart Work: American Manufacturing in the Digital Age’ The Hill event, exploring the role of the Internet of Things in transforming the nation’s manufacturing. Speakers include House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Republican Rep. Tom Reed, Department of Energy Advanced Manufacturing Office Director Dr Mark Johnson, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation Vice President Stephen Ezell, and ABB Americas Region President Greg Scheu Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/thehillvents> #SmartWorkForum

8:45 AM Dem Reps. Nadler and DeGette at rally outside SCOTUS ahead of ‘Zubik v. Burwell’ arguments – Democratic Reps. Jerrold Nadler and Dianna DeGette join members of the Pro-Choice Caucus for rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court ahead of oral arguments in ‘Zubik v. Burwell’ * Reps. Nadler and DeGette co-authored, along with Rep. Louise Slaughter, a Congressional amicus brief in the case that urges the court to uphold the current accommodation to the Affordable Care Act’s birth control benefit Location: Front Steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, DC www.house.gov/nadler

12:00 PM ‘The Nuclear Security Summit: Accomplishments of the Process’ report released – Partnership for Global Security release ‘The Nuclear Security Summit: Accomplishments of the Process’ report at National

Press Club, the final report in a series of six looking at what states have individually done to strengthen nuclear security during the course of the Nuclear Security Summit Process (2010 – 2016) Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.partnershipforglobalsecurity.org <https://twitter.com/PGSuclear>

1:00 PM “Women Fighting on the Front Lines: What Does It Mean For Women, Men, And Military Preparedness?” – Independent Women’s Forum and London Center for Policy Research host Women Fighting On The Front Lines panel discussion. The Pentagon’s admission of women to the infantry and other units has sparked debate in Washington. According to testimony on Capitol Hill, women can be involuntarily assigned to combat units, potentially fight in hand-to-hand combat, and may be required to register for the draft. Panelists Major General Bob Newman, Jr., Amber Smith, Gunnery Sergeant Jessie Jane Duff, and Katherine Kidder, moderator Lieutenant Colonel Tony Shaffer, and guest speaker Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA), all heavyweight thinkers in the field, discuss the historic announcement by Defense Secretary Ashton Carter opening all positions in the U.S. military to women and what this means for women, the men who would fight with them, and military preparedness. Is this a necessary step to ensure women are treated equally under the law? What does it mean for our culture and the relationships between men and women? Raybu Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2255 www.iwf.org <https://twitter.com/IWF>

9:00 AM Rally outside U.S. Supreme Court in support of access to birth control in healthcare plans – Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Catholics for Choice, and other groups rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court to support access to birth control in healthcare plans * SCOTUS hears arguments today in ‘Zubik v. Burwell’ Location: outside the U.S. Supreme Court, 1 1st St, Washington, DC <https://www.au.org/>

Italian and U.S. officials present MOU on import restrictions of archaeological material – Italian and U.S. officials, joined by representatives of the private sector, present ‘Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Italy and the United States concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological Material Representing the Pre-Classical, Classical and Imperial Roman Periods of Italy’ to the public, after the agreement – first adopted in 2001 – was extended for an additional five years in January. Speakers at the event, co-organized by the State Department and the Embassy of Italy, include Raymond Villanueva (Department of Homeland Security), Massimo Maresca (Italian Carabinieri Command for the Safeguarding of Cultural Patrimony), Karol Wight (Corning Museum of Glass), Alex Barker (University of Missouri), Ann Benbow (Archaeological Institute of America), and Donatella Cavezzali (Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism) Location: Embassy of Italy, 3000 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/> <https://twitter.com/ItalyinUS>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: “The latest on President Obama’s trip to Cuba. I saw that over the weekend he and his family were photographed on a walking tour of Havana in the pouring rain. Which means the President’s like everyone’s dad on vacation. If he paid for the nonrefundable tour, you’re going to go on that nonrefundable tour.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Obama also spoke from Cuba yesterday and said that US airlines will start making commercial flights to Cuba this year. But first Obama said he wants to see a greater respect for human rights. Not in Cuba. At LaGuardia [Airport].”

Jimmy Fallon: “In an interview with CNN last night, Ted Cruz was asked about being Donald Trump’s vice president and said, quote, ‘I have zero interest whatsoever.’ Which is also what Cruz’s friends say when he invites them to dinner.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Bernie Sanders recently spoke at a US-Mexico border in Arizona and said, quote, ‘We don’t need a wall.’ Then Bernie said, ‘But then again, I told Noah we didn’t need an ark, so who knows?’”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Bernie Sanders has ignited a lot of passion, primarily among young people. And the incredible thing is he did it without posting even a single nude selfie. Bernie can get very fired up. I watch him on these debates. But remember, if it seems like he’s yelling at you, it’s because he is yelling at you and you deserve it.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Bernie was on the ballot in three states today. There was a primary in Arizona and caucuses in Idaho and Utah. Donald Trump was behind in the polls in Utah. Utah is not particularly friendly territory for Donald Trump, because most of the voters there are sober.”

Jimmy Kimmel: "But according to a new poll, 60 percent of Republicans say they're embarrassed by their candidates in the primary so far. That means almost 40 percent of Republicans aren't embarrassed by their candidates in the primary so far. How can that be? When he's asked why he thinks so many of his fellow Republicans are embarrassed, Donald Trump said, 'What's embarrassed? What is it?'"

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, October 7, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Announces \\$186 Million Settlement Of Tribal Trust Lawsuit.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Backs Pacific Rim Trade.](#)
- + [Senate In "Stalemate" Over LWCF.](#)
- + [Public Education Leaders In Utah Raise Concerns Over National Monument Designations.](#)
- + [New Study Links Increased Wildfires In Rockies to Climate Change.](#)
- + [Haskell Indian Nations University Seeks Independence.](#)
- + [Bear Story Made From Vine Videos.](#)
- + [Waco Mammoth Designation Lauded.](#)
- + [Federal Management Of Public Lands Criticized.](#)
- + [Supreme Court To Hear Utah Roads Case.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Chinook Tribe Tries New Tactic In Ongoing Quest For Federal Recognition.](#)
- + [Tribes Files Lawsuit Over Education Reforms.](#)
- + [BIA Shows Ingenuity In Mashpee Casino Site Ruling.](#)
- + [Navajo Ask EPA For Rolling Mine Spill Compensation.](#)
- + [Report Says Navajo Nation's Jails Cost More Than Needed.](#)
- + [Federal Recognition Of Virginia Tribes Urged.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Puerto Rico Dump Closure Ongoing.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [California's Federal Reservoirs In Worse Shape Than Last Year.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Report Says Coal Royalties Should Be Updated.](#)
- + [BLM, Alaska Holding Separate Oil, Gas Lease Sales.](#)
- + [USGS Study: Monterey Shale Holds Less Fracking Potential Than Thought.](#)
- + [Former Glacier National Park Superintendents Oppose Leases In Badger-Two Medicine.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Lynch: BP Receives "Largest Penalty In The History Of Environmental Law."](#)
- + [Environmentalists Emboldened By Shell's Exit From Arctic.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [BLM Decision Complicates Cadiz Plan To Sell Mojave Groundwater.](#)
- + [Supporters Of ATV Protest Riders Comment On Social Network.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Sage Grouse Decision Marks Shift In Approach To Conservation.](#)
- + [Hawaii Yet To Ban Ivory Sales.](#)
- + [FWS Releases Rare Ferrets At Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.](#)
- + [Survey Finds Federal Scientists Concerned About Political Meddling In Wildlife Decisions.](#)
- + [FWS Proposes New Protections For Two Freshwater Fish Species .](#)
- + [FWS Proposes To Downgrade Status Of Columbian White-tailed Deer.](#)
- + [FWS Developing A Proposal To Remove Yellowstone Grizzlies From Federal Protection.](#)
- + [Homebuilders Praise Decision Not To Protect Tortoise.](#)
- + [Chesapeake Restoration Agreement Seeks To Increase Brook Trout Habitat.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Director Jarvis Visits Monroe To Promote "Every Kid In The Park" Initiative.](#)
- + [NPS Begins Clearing Fort Rosalie Site.](#)
- + [Python Hunters Won't Be Allowed In Everglades.](#)
- + [Yellowstone Sets Visitation Record.](#)
- + [NPS, Golden Gate Bridge Reach Deal On Permit For Suicide Barrier.](#)
- + [Dog Rescued After Fall Into Crack At Volcanoes National Park.](#)
- + [National Register Of Historic Places Denies Plans To Move Indiana Bridge.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS Study: Climate Change To Hit Marshall Islands Harder, Quicker Than Expected.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama Kicks Off Campaign For Congressional Approval Of TPP.](#)
- + [Earmark: Medicaid Expansion Would Help Combat Gun Violence.](#)
- + [State Department Demands Information Over Clinton-Petraeus Emails.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT OF TRIBAL TRUST LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (10/7, 51K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says "a \$186 million settlement has been reached with the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations over the government's handling of some tribal resources and properties." Jewell announced "the settlement Tuesday at a ceremony at the Choctaw Nation headquarters in Durant." The deal "ends a nine-year lawsuit alleging the federal government mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands in southeastern and south-central Oklahoma, with some claims more than 100 years old." Under the agreement, "the government will pay the Chickasaw Nation \$46.5 million and the Choctaw Nation \$139.5 million. In return, the tribes will dismiss their lawsuit and set aside future litigation."

The [Oklahoman](#) (10/7, 408K) reports that Jewell said "she also hoped the agreement would help establish better relations between the two tribes and the federal government." She said "It recognizes that there has been a very painful history between the Choctaw Nation and the Chickasaw Nation and the United States government."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oklahoma Journal Record](#) (10/5, 9K), the [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (10/7, 364K), the [Sherman \(TX\) Herald Democrat](#) (10/7, 568), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7, 344K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/7, 66K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/7, 337), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (10/7, 81K), [KXII-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/7, 46K), [KGOU-FM](#) Norman, OK (10/7, 2K), and [KTEN-TV](#) Sherman, TX (10/7, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL BACKS PACIFIC RIM TRADE. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/5, 219K) reports that "the U.S. reached an agreement Monday on a massive trade deal with 11 Pacific Rim countries that could have a major impact on Alaska seafood exports." The environmental provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership are "meant to address logging, illegal wildlife tracking, and 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing,' according to the U.S. trade office." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called it a "historic accomplishment." Jewell said, "The TPP holds important tools to move trading partners toward more sustainable development – helping to protect precious natural resources and combat wildlife trafficking, illegal logging and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It also includes commitments to conserve species like rhinos, elephants and pangolins and protect natural areas and forests."

SENATE IN "STALEMATE" OVER LWCF. [Politico Pro](#) (10/6) reports that Sen. Richard Burr says the Senate is "in 'sort of a stalemate' over his effort to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund by amending bipartisan legislation updating the Toxic Substances Control Act." Burr "acknowledged he is blocking quick consideration of the TSCA update until he secures an LWCF vote, and Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) announced through a spokeswoman that she was joining the effort."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/7, Henry, 471K).

PUBLIC EDUCATION LEADERS IN UTAH RAISE CONCERNS OVER NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/6, 46K) reports that "leaders in public education within Utah have voiced their concerns over the long-term impacts national monument designations could ultimately have on school land." For instance, Tim Donaldson, School Children's Trust director for the Utah State Board of Education, said "designations, such as the proposed Bears' Ears Monument, would capture school trust lands." According to the article, "in turn, this would make these areas of land virtually undevelopable, therefore causing schools to lose money."

NEW STUDY LINKS INCREASED WILDFIRES IN ROCKIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (10/7, 6.76M) reports that new research published Monday from scientists at the University of Wyoming suggests that the recent, more extreme wildfire seasons in the Rocky Mountain region could become more common due to global climate change. Study co-author John Calder said that people in the region should expect "a new normal" to wildfire cycles with larger and more frequent blazes.

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY SEEKS INDEPENDENCE. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (10/7, 566K) reports that "government red tape...has an impact on staffing" at Haskell Indian Nations University. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "acknowledged the staffing concerns following the commencement address she gave at last spring's graduation." She said, "The funding hasn't kept up. We really need Congress to step up and support the budget for Indian education." But Haskell can "only expect 'stable funding' from the Department of Interior over the next couple of years," according to the office of U.S. Rep. Lynn Jenkins.

BEAR STORY MADE FROM VINE VIDEOS. [BuzzFeed](#) (10/7, 10.73M) compiles Vine videos from The Department of The Interior's Twitter, Explore.org and BEARCAM to form a narrative.

WACO MAMMOTH DESIGNATION LAUDED. In a piece for the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 415K), Jody Seaborn lauds the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument. Seaborn says that "adding the 'national monument' label to the site strengthens the good stewardship already taking place there and guarantees its continuation." Seaborn concludes by congratulating "all involved."

FEDERAL MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/7, Stewart, 471K), Rep. Chris Stewart questions why "people who don't live in my state, and have probably never even been there, get to decide what happens to that land." He notes that "federal ownership means the western communities which surround that land and which are most impacted by the decisions of federal land managers have little to no say in the name, let alone the policies that govern that land." According to Stewart, "that might be merely irritating if the feds did a decent job managing public lands," but because "they don't," it's "much more than just irritating; it's a disaster."

[Breitbart](#) (10/6, 1.49M) provides five examples of federal decisions that show “responsible land use.”

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR UTAH ROADS CASE. In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (10/7, Pendley, 787K), William Perry Pendley, president and CEO of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, writes that the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday is scheduled to consider whether to take a Utah roads case. Pendley criticizes the ruling by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, blasting the reasoning, and its conflict with earlier 10th Circuit rulings.

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHINOOK TRIBE TRIES NEW TACTIC IN ONGOING QUEST FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/7, 20K) reports that the Chinook Indian Nation is “taking a new approach” in its quest for federal recognition. According to the article, “every day for the last three months,” Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson has “sent President Barack Obama a letter requesting clarification of tribal status via executive order.”

TRIBES FILES LAWSUIT OVER EDUCATION REFORMS. The [Courthouse News](#) (10/6, 7K) reports that “the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Education are trampling tribal rights with their new ‘Blueprint for Reform,’ according to a lawsuit filed by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in a South Dakota federal court on Oct. 2.” According to the tribe’s complaint, “the reforms would reduce staff at reservation educational line offices that serve to provide federal oversight and resources—such as grant money and special education—to tribal schools.” The article notes that “some of the offices would be closed or consolidated into educational resource centers located in urban areas, sometimes hundreds of miles from the reservation, the tribe says, adding that the government did not properly consult it about the reforms – a violation of earlier treaties.”

BIA SHOWS INGENUITY IN MASHPEE CASINO SITE RULING. [Law 360](#) (10/7, 21K) reports that “a recent decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take land into trust for a Massachusetts tribe’s planned \$500 million casino project highlights the agency’s inventiveness in working around restrictions on such acquisitions and lays out a novel approach the agency looks ready to defend, experts say.” The bureau “approved the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s request to have tribe-owned land in Mashpee and Taunton, Massachusetts, taken into trust for its First Light Casino project on Sept. 18.”

NAVAJO ASK EPA FOR ROLLING MINE SPILL COMPENSATION. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Navajo Nation requested that U.S. EPA supply formal assurances that ‘all claims, known and unknown’ stemming from the Gold King mine spill will be fully paid out.” Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch “raised concerns about EPA’s claims process, asking the agency to confirm that accepting compensation does not eliminate the potential for future claims, as tribal members are in need of immediate assistance.” Branch said, “We need to assure our people, who are concerned for their futures, that their injuries will not go ignored.”

REPORT SAYS NAVAJO NATION’S JAILS COST MORE THAN NEEDED. The [AllGov](#) (10/7, 2K) reports that “the Navajo Nation, the nation’s largest Indian reservation, has two brand new jails that wound up costing far more than they should have, raising questions about spending on the projects.” According to a report from the Department of Justice’s inspector general, “the jails, which are largely empty, cost the federal government \$70 million in economic stimulus grants to build, but should have cost less than \$40 million.” Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz said “more than \$32 million of the money wound up being spent on the jails’ ‘excessive’ and ‘larger than planned’ size.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Native American Times](#) (10/7, 337).

FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA TRIBES URGED. In an op-ed for the [Richmond \(VA\) Style Weekly](#) (10/7, 73K), Dale Wolf and Jack Fechino, members of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School class of 2011, write that “in February, U.S. Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner introduced the bipartisan Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act,” and “while further action on this bill looms, similar bills aiming to cover additional tribes in Virginia and other states have advanced from the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, but the full body has yet to hear them.” They note that “if successful, then the legislation that Kaine and Warner introduced would grant federal recognition to half a dozen Virginia groups: the Chickahominy tribe, the Eastern Chickahominy tribe, the Upper Mattaponi tribe, the Rappahannock tribe, the Monacan Indian Nation and the Nansemond tribe.” But “unfortunately, efforts to get this law or something like it passed have been severely complicated by a relic of more prejudiced times.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

PUERTO RICO DUMP CLOSURE ONGOING. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/6, 641) reports that "tires, wood, and other debris extraction is ongoing at the Puerto Rico dump, as the closure project enters its fourth month since a notice-to-proceed was given in May to turn the regulation-violating dump site into a eco-friendly community park, said one of the officials overseeing the project yesterday." Carl Castro, of the Office of the Governor's Capital Improvement Projects Office, said, "Project is on schedule." The article notes that "the dump closure project kicked off last June, with CNMI and Office of Insular Affairs officials attending a groundbreaking ceremony."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA'S FEDERAL RESERVOIRS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN LAST YEAR. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/7, 535K) reports that "in the latest indicator of the severity of the drought, the federal government's main reservoirs serving California have begun the new 'water year' at just a quarter full and in worse shape than last year." The BOR said Tuesday that "the six key reservoirs of the Central Valley Project were a combined 200,000 acre-feet below the same time last year, a difference of about 6 percent." In total, "the reservoirs, including Shasta and Folsom, are just 24 percent full."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT SAYS COAL ROYALTIES SHOULD BE UPDATED. [US News & World Report](#) (10/6, 811K) reports that "coal companies should be charged as much as five times what it costs them for surface mining on federal lands, according to a new report from a nonpartisan think tank at the New York University School of Law." The study notes that "the royalties that companies pay to mine coal on federal lands have not been upgraded in decades, and through a variety of loopholes and incentives, companies have been allowed to fork over just a fraction of what would seem to be required by law – leaving as much as \$1 billion a year on the table for the past 30 years." Jayni Hein, the study's lead author and policy director at the NYU School of Law's Institute for Policy Integrity, which released the report this week, said, "In some cases, it's gaming the system, in other cases, it's using the rules to the best of their advantage. There's no reason these companies should be able to lease coal for the same price they were able to decades ago."

BLM, ALASKA HOLDING SEPARATE OIL, GAS LEASE SALES. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM and state of Alaska are "holding separate oil and gas lease sales next month in northern Alaska, the two governments announced last week." The BLM is "offering leases on 1.5 million acres of land in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in the northwest corner of the state." The Alaska Division of Oil and Gas is "opening bidding on tracts in state waters in the Beaufort Sea, on the North Slope and in the North Slope Foothills area."

USGS STUDY: MONTEREY SHALE HOLDS LESS FRACKING POTENTIAL THAN THOUGHT. The [AP](#) (10/7, Knickmeyer) reports on Tuesday, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) downgraded "the fracking potential of California's vast Monterey Shale oil deposits," with its newest USGS study saying that "most oil-rich portion of the giant shale formation holds just 21 million barrels of oil that can be recovered by intensive methods, such as hydraulic fracturing." The piece adds the USGS study only quantified the San Joaquin Basin and that upcoming surveys "will estimate the recoverable petroleum in the other three basins."

FORMER GLACIER NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENTS OPPOSE LEASES IN BADGER-TWO MEDICINE. In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/7, 116K), former Glacier National Park superintendents Phillip Iverson, Robert Haraden, H. Gilbert Lusk, Suzanne Lewis, Michael (Mick) Holm and Chas Cartwright, agree with the Blackfeet Nation that the Badger-Two Medicine is "sacred ground." The authors note that "they have made many good-faith efforts to swap or to buy out these remaining leases – because they maintain that due to the fragile and pristine nature of the Badger-Two Medicine and Blackfeet culture, industrial development cannot be mitigated." They argue that "industrial energy development of this world-class resource would represent an intolerable assault to the ecological and cultural values of Glacier National Park, as well as to the Blackfeet people."

Offshore Energy Development:

LYNCH: BP RECEIVES "LARGEST PENALTY IN THE HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW." In continuing coverage, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/6, 455K) reports the Department of Justice's \$20.8 billion settlement with BP over its handling of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill "may mark the beginning of the end of an especially dark chapter in environmental history." The fines consist of several separate funds to be paid out over time. These funds include \$5.5 billion, which Attorney General Loretta Lynch says is "the largest civil penalty in the history of environmental law." Lynch said at a Tuesday morning press conference: "At trial, our litigation team proved that the spill was the result of BP's gross negligence... BP is receiving the punishment it deserves, while also providing critical compensation for the injuries it caused to the environment and the economy of the Gulf region," adding, "I am proud that the Department of Justice has helped lead the way from tragedy to opportunity."

Experts Defend Long Payout For BP Oil Spill Settlement. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/6, 718K) reports that according to some experts, a slow payout of BP's \$20 billion settlement over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill over the course of 15 years could actually benefit Louisiana and other coastal states. Supporters of the extended timeline say it will ensure the settlement money "is distributed efficiently and actually used as intended," whereas "dumping a large pot of money on the coast is a recipe for problems and waste." The long payout also benefits BP, as the company is able to earn interest on the money it sets aside for the oil spill payments.

Louisiana Indian Tribe Says BP Still Liable For Gulf Oil Spill Damages. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Rascoe) reports that a Louisiana Indian tribe filed a lawsuit last Thursday claiming that BP Plc. is liable for damage to the tribe's cultural and natural resources because of damage from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS EMBOLDENED BY SHELL'S EXIT FROM ARCTIC. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, Dlouhy, 2.28M) reported that environmentalists opposing Arctic oil drilling "have claimed a high-profile success against Shell and aim to funnel the resulting enthusiasm into other fights against fossil fuels." The Chronicle reported that "asked if the protests factored into its thinking, Royal Dutch Shell, which has its North American operations based in Houston, referred to a statement last week that cited the well results, high costs and challenging regulations." Added the Chronicle, "There was no mention of environmentalists."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ PLAN TO SELL MOJAVE GROUNDWATER. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM "rejected a California company's plan to build a water pipeline connecting Mojave Desert groundwater to 100,000 homes in urban Southern California." In a letter, BLM California Director Jim Kenna "told Cadiz Inc. it cannot avoid a federal environmental review by using an existing railroad right of way for its 43-mile pipeline." Cadiz President Scott Slater said that "he was 'disappointed the BLM decided to take a political path' but planned to continue pursuing 'all legal remedies.'"

SUPPORTERS OF ATV PROTEST RIDERS COMMENT ON SOCIAL NETWORK. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/7, 492K) reports that "San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman's Facebook page, where his online friends continue to comment on his conviction and pending sentencing for arranging a protest ATV ride on protected Bureau of Land Management turf, reveals the mentality of his supporters." Lyman political ally and San Juan County Assessor Shelby Seely wrote, "Not sure why the government would want an illegal immigrant to run the BLM." Seely was "referring to former state BLM Director Juan Palma, whom Lyman supporters allege set up the commissioner by leading him to believe that he had the agency's blessing to ride in Recapture Canyon."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE DECISION MARKS SHIFT IN APPROACH TO CONSERVATION. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/6, 455K) reports that "the sage grouse is an unlikely lightning rod for public policy reform, but the eccentric-looking bird now finds itself at the center of a debate over the future of conservation of endangered wildlife in the United States." The decision last month by the Interior Department "not to list the sage grouse on the endangered species list and instead to put forth a kind of collaborative plan for the species' survival may mark a turning point in the country's approach to conservation." According to the article, "some environmentalists will now argue that in order for conservation to truly succeed, it must work on a macro-scale,

with more than a single species as its focus,” and “instead, they say, looking at entire ecosystems, as well as acknowledging the benefits that nature provides to humans, could be the path to conservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Blue Mountain \(OR\) Eagle](#) (10/6, 7K) and [Atlas Obscura](#) (10/7).

Report Highlights Success Stories Of ESA. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/6, 705) reports that “the Endangered Species Act has sparked partnerships between government regulators and private landowners that have restored imperiled species without the need for federal protection, according to a new report arguing that the landmark environmental law is working. “The report by the Sand County Foundation, “which works with private landowners on voluntary conservation efforts, highlights six so-called success stories, including the decision last month by the Fish and Wildlife Service not to pursue an ESA listing for the greater sage grouse.”

HAWAII YET TO BAN IVORY SALES. The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Fears, 6.76M) reports that “a thriving ivory retail market has placed Hawaii behind only New York and California in sale volume at a time when massive numbers of elephants are being illegally slaughtered for their tusks.” However, “now, after California’s governor signed a ban on sales Sunday and New York instituted a ban last year, Hawaii stands alone among America’s big three as a place where the artifact can be sold over the counter for cash.” The article notes that “at least three attempts at bans in the state House and Senate fell apart against a wall of opposition from merchants.”

Washington State Voters Urged To Support Initiative 1401. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/7, Wasser, 164K), Sam Wasser, Director of the University of Washington Center for Conservation Biology, writes that his “work on analyzing DNA samples taken from confiscated shipments of illegal African elephant ivory has helped us pinpoint where the bulk of elephant poaching is taking place.” He says that “in Washington State, we have the opportunity to make a big difference this November by supporting Initiative 1401, a statewide ballot measure before voters this fall.” He notes that “California and New York are already working towards ending illegal wildlife trade in their states.” If Washington does “the same, the three largest ports in the U.S. will be sending a collective message that environmental security and economic security must go hand in hand for us to live in a sustainable world.”

FWS RELEASES RARE FERRETS AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that 30 black-footed ferrets were released at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge on Monday. It was the “latest in a decades-long effort among the federal government, Western states and landowners to recover one of North America’s most endangered species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/7, 259K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/6, 113K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/6, 455K), [Clapway](#) (10/6), [Tech Times](#) (10/6, 171K), [AOL](#) (10/6, 6.06M), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/6, 79K).

SURVEY FINDS FEDERAL SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL MEDDLING IN WILDLIFE DECISIONS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that “a majority of scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration believe their agencies give too much consideration to ‘political interests,’ according to a recent survey from a science advocacy group.” The Union of Concerned Scientists “survey – which was sent to 37,593 scientists and technical experts at FWS, NOAA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration – found that concerns about inappropriate political influence were highest at FWS.” The article notes that “seventy-four percent of the FWS respondents said the level of consideration of political interests was ‘too high.’”

FWS PROPOSES NEW PROTECTIONS FOR TWO FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES . [The Hill](#) (10/7, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is “proposing new protections for certain small fish often used as bait by fishermen.” Under the agency’s proposal, “the headwater chub and certain roundtail chubs would be listed as threatened species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/7, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7, 344K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (10/7, 51K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/7, 259K).

FWS PROPOSES TO DOWNGRADE STATUS OF COLUMBIAN WHITE-TAILED DEER. The [Oregonian](#) (10/7, 756K) reports that the FWS on Tuesday “unveiled a proposal to downgrade” the Columbian white-tailed deer’s “status from endangered to threatened, continuing its protections under the Endangered Species Act with more leeway for state wildlife officials to get involved in managing deer populations.” In a statement Tuesday, the agency’s deputy regional director, Richard Hannan, said “the animal’s recovery is a result of state, federal

and tribal wildlife managers' combined efforts." He said, "The continued conservation success in the Pacific Northwest illustrates what we can accomplish when we all work together."

FWS DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION. The [New York Daily News](#) (10/7, Couillard, 3.75M) reports that the FWS is "drafting a proposal to remove grizzly bears from federal protection at Yellowstone." The service "found that the recovery goals of grizzlies in the Wyoming park have been met and adequate methods are in place to continue the sustainability of the bear, spokesman Ryan Moehring told the Daily News." The article notes that "the proposal would only apply to the grizzly bears found at Yellowstone National Park — with other populations of grizzlies in Montana, Idaho and Washington state remaining on the endangered species list, Moehring said."

HOMEBUILDERS PRAISE DECISION NOT TO PROTECT TORTOISE. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/7, 257K) reports that "while environmentalists weren't happy with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's decision not to list the Sonoran Desert tortoise as endangered, the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association and the Arizona Game and Fish Department were pleased." David Godlewski, SAHBA's president, said, "From a scientific standpoint, a listing wasn't warranted, and we think the additional regulations would have been challenging to the homebuilding industry and likely cause an increase in housing costs. It was a good decision for the industry and future homeowners."

CHESAPEAKE RESTORATION AGREEMENT SEEKS TO INCREASE BROOK TROUT HABITAT. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/6, 834K) reports that "last year, Maryland, the other bay watershed states, and the federal government signed a new Chesapeake restoration agreement that included a pledge to increase brook trout habitat 8 percent by 2025." The article notes that "that amounts to an expansion by more than 200,000 acres of stream watershed across all six states that drain into the bay." Ben Hutzell, a biologist with the FWS, "which has provided technical help and oversight for this and other stream restoration projects around the region," said, "Anytime we can do work to enhance habitat for brook trout, it gives us justification do work in the area."

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS VISITS MONROE TO PROMOTE "EVERY KID IN THE PARK" INITIATIVE. [KNOE-TV](#) Monroe, LA (10/7, 1K) reports that NPS Director Jon Jarvis "told stories about interacting with animals in nature to some fourth graders from Cypress Point Elementary at ULM's Natural History Museum to encourage them to visit national, state and local parks." He said, "Both the US Wildlife and Fisheries services and National Park Service sister agencies are really trying to do is get kids out to these places and we are really looking at parks and refuges near urban centers and Black Bayou is a perfect example of that." Jarvis is "trying to spread the message of a new initiative called Every Kid in the Park, which allows fourth grade students to apply for a free access pass to national parks."

NPS BEGINS CLEARING FORT ROSALIE SITE. The [AP](#) (10/7, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has "started clearing the way for a renovated Fort Rosalie." Throughout October, NPS "contractors will be removing vegetation from the site near the Natchez Visitor Reception Center." According to Natchez National Historical Park Superintendent Kathleen Bond, "contractors would be removing invasive plant species such as paper mulberry, pastoral trees and wisteria vines."

In an editorial, the [Natchez \(MS\) Democrat](#) (10/7, 25K) notes that the NPS is "beginning to clean up the former Fort Rosalie site in preparation for its public opening next year during Natchez's tricentennial birthday celebration." According to the paper, "the good news for locals is that NPS doesn't typically do subpar work." It looks forward to when "the first phase of Fort Rosalie is completed so Natchez residents can again stand on the ground where Bienville and his men stood and look out across the beauty of our corner of the world." The editorial thanks "the NPS for caring for some of our area's most significant historical sites."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/7, 560K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7, 344K).

PYTHON HUNTERS WON'T BE ALLOWED IN EVERGLADES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS will "not allow hunters to kill invasive pythons in limited sections of Everglades National Park as part of a state-sponsored event that drew a formal protest last summer from watchdog group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility." NPS Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin "sent a letter in September to PEER stating that the agency never had any intention to kill pythons in the park." Instead, "volunteers trained by the Park Service may capture pythons in the park and turn them into NPS or the Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the 2016 Python Challenge.”

YELLOWSTONE SETS VISITATION RECORD. The [AP](#) (10/7, 2.28M) reports that “Yellowstone National Park has set a record this year with more than 3.8 million visits at the end of September, and is on track to top 4 million visits by the year’s end.” According to park statistics, “the number of recreational visits this year has surpassed a 2010 record of more than 3.6 million by nearly 5 percent.” Yellowstone spokeswoman Amy Bartlett says “the increase in visitors can be attributed to the ‘Find Your Park’ campaign, lower gas prices and the upcoming National Parks Service centennial, which takes place next year.”

NPS, GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE REACH DEAL ON PERMIT FOR SUICIDE BARRIER. The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/6, 67K) reports that Golden Gate Bridge and NPS officials have “worked out a tentative deal that would allow work on a \$76 million suicide barrier on the span to move forward.” According to the article, “if approvals are given, the bridge district intends to advertise a construction contract by Oct. 13.” Then, “bids would be opened in January, with another six weeks needed to go through the submissions made by bidders.”

DOG RESCUED AFTER FALL INTO CRACK AT VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (10/7, 2.28M) reports that “a Big Island family was reunited with their dog after a rescue team removed the Labrador retriever trapped in a crack in the earth at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.” According to the article, “Marta Caproni and her boyfriend were walking the 4-year-old chocolate Lab, Romeo, and his littermate, Tommy, at the park when Romeo ran off and disappeared.” A rescue team was able to remove Romeo by sending in Ranger Arnold Nakata.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DENIES PLANS TO MOVE INDIANA BRIDGE. The [AP](#) (10/7, 86K) reports that “the National Register of Historic Places has denied Indiana’s request to move a two-span steel truss bridge to southern Indiana, boosting the hopes of preservationists who want the structure to stay put.” The Indiana Department of Transportation had “sought permission to move the western Indiana bridge’s two sections to separate locations on the Salt Creek Trail, a walking trail that will eventually link Brown County State Park to Nashville’s town limits.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY: CLIMATE CHANGE TO HIT MARSHALL ISLANDS HARDER, QUICKER THAN EXPECTED. [CBS News](#) (10/7, Casey, 7.05M) reports that a combined study conducted by scientists from the USGS, Deltas Institute and the University of Hawaii concludes that effects from climate change will cause sea levels to rise around the Marshall Islands more severely and sooner than expected. The study’s lead author, USGS geologist Curt Storlazzi said to CBS, “many atoll islands will be flooded annually,” which will contaminate freshwater access and displace up to a half million people due to rising sea levels and higher waves.

Top National News:

OBAMA KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF TPP. Media reports are casting President Obama’s [remarks](#) to business leaders yesterday and his interview with [Marketplace](#) as the launch of his campaign for Congressional passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The coverage, which once again included not a single mention on the network newscasts, indicates that at this stage, Obama is fashioning his arguments to persuade lawmakers – not the US public at large – of the need to approve the treaty. Notably for a debate in which Obama will require GOP support, for the second day in a row he described the treaty as a tax-cutting mechanism, saying it would eliminate “18,000 taxes that other countries...effectively place on US goods and services when we try to sell there.” Obama, notes [USA Today](#) (10/7, Jackson, 5.23M), also “said...Japan slaps a 38% tax on American beef, and Malaysia has a 30% tax on US auto parts,” and the [AP](#) (10/7, Freking) quotes him saying, “If the tariffs are down, if the taxes are down on goods made in America, that means US companies are investing here and are able to sell over there.” Reports describe him as confident that he will prevail, and continue to speculate about Hillary Clinton’s eventual stance. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/7, Memoli, Parsons, 4.07M) reports that Clinton, campaigning in Iowa on Tuesday, “sidestepped the question of whether she would support the agreement, saying only that she intended to ‘make a timely decision.’”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/7, 492K) reports that Obama “made the case for the deal at a meeting Tuesday with executives and representatives from the manufacturing, farm and technology industries at the US Agriculture Department’s headquarters.” The White House “released a list of 19 participants who joined administration officials in the meeting on the trade deal, including John Engler, president of the Business Roundtable; Jay

Timmons, president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Manufacturers; R. Bruce Josten executive vice president of the US Chamber of Commerce; Dean Garfield, president and CEO of the Information Technology Industry Council, and Tom Linebarger, CEO and chairman of Cummins Inc.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/7, Memoli, Parsons, 4.07M) says Obama “launched the pitch alongside Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.”

[Reuters](#) (10/6, Edwards) notes that Obama framed his brief remarks as just the launch of a broader push to promote the deal, and announced “a long healthy process of discussion, consultation before this ever comes to an actual vote.” Obama, according to [USA Today](#) (10/7, Jackson, 5.23M), “told [the] business leaders...he is confident that Congress will approve” the treaty.

In his interview with [Marketplace](#) (10/6, 45K), meanwhile, the President revealed that “he personally worked the phones to build support in the closing negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.” Said Obama, “I made calls to prime ministers, I made calls to presidents, I made calls to US businesses, I made calls to a lot of stakeholders, environmental groups, to explain to them why it is so important for us to make sure that we’ve got a high-standard set of rules governing trade and commerce in this region.” Obama also told [Marketplace](#) (10/6, 45K), “We’re not going to bring back all the manufacturing jobs that were lost. The economy is dynamic and is changing. ... The anxieties are real, the concerns are real, but the prescription is not for us to try to look backwards. The prescription here is for us to look forward, and that’s what this trade deal does.”

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/7, Joseph, 3.75M) further quotes Obama as saying at USDA headquarters, “This agreement has the strongest labor standards of any trade agreement in history, including setting fair hours, prohibiting child labor, prohibiting forced labor. It includes the highest environmental standards in history. ... It will be an enormous achievement for us to have some 40% of the worlds’ economies operating under rules that don’t hurt us.”

The [AP](#) (10/7, Freking) indicates that “one of the administration’s selling points is that it will put pressure on China to match various safeguards and openness to competition that’s written into the agreement.” Obama said yesterday, “Under this agreement, we, rather than countries like China, are writing the rules for the global economy.” Under the headline “US Allies See Trans-Pacific Partnership As A Check On China,” the [New York Times](#) (10/7, Perlez, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that America’s “allies” also “expressed optimism about the impact of the 12-nation accord on a region worried about its dependence on the slowing Chinese economy.” In China, “where the government’s initial opposition to the trade pact has softened recently, the Ministry of Commerce issued a statement on Tuesday saying that the accord was ‘one of the important free trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific region.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/7, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that “outside of those big-picture complaints, lawmakers have raised a number of concerns related to several specific industries.” The Times adds that “perhaps most notably, tobacco state lawmakers have objected to the fact that countries’ health departments will be able to restrict or heavily tax the sale of American-produced cigarettes and related products.”

In an online piece, Catherine Ho lists in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) four potential obstacles to Congressional approval: “Republicans may be hesitant to hand Obama a victory. ... Obama may not have the support of some key Democrats. ... Powerful outside lobbying groups oppose the deal,” and “if the final vote falls during primary season, vulnerable candidates could be nervous about backing a controversial deal.” Along those lines, Sunlen Serfaty said on [CNN’s New Day](#) (10/7, 226K) that Obama “certainly does face a tough battle ahead in Congress” because “this will inevitably be tangled into the politics of the presidential race.”

Picking up on some of those themes, the [Tribune News Service](#) (10/7, 2.46M) reports that “to achieve a victory,” the White House “will need help from Republicans and will need to overcome doubts from a key Democratic constituency,” and adds that while “unions have lost political clout as their numbers have declined, their political action committees donated more than \$60 million to campaigns during the 2012 elections,” and “about 90 percent of that money went toward Democratic candidates, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.” Chris Shelton, president of the Communications Workers of America, said yesterday “the union will ‘hold accountable those members of Congress who support this giveaway to the 1 percent.’”

[USA Today](#) (10/7, Jackson, 5.23M) similarly indicates that Obama is pursuing the deal in opposition to some of his natural allies in the Democratic Party and the labor movement. Bill Samuel, director of government affairs for the AFL-CIO, told [Bloomberg News](#) (10/7, 492K) in an interview that “selling the trade pact will be an ‘uphill climb’ for the White House,” as the debate “comes up in the hothouse of a presidential election and a congressional election; never a good time to be selling free trade.” Al [Jazeera America](#) (10/7, 109K) noted on its

website that “it’s unclear where Clinton will come down on the trade agreement,” while Sen. Bernie Sanders “moved quickly to voice his opposition” and Gov. Martin O’Malley “has been highly critical of the trade pact in recent months.”

McConnell Speaks Of TPP’s “Troubling Parts,” Trump Says “It’s Not Good For Our Country.” Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell, [Reuters](#) (10/7, Lawder) reports, yesterday spoke of “a number of troubling parts” to the deal, adding, “We’re in the process, all of us, of reading the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement,” and “I don’t have any observation to make.”

In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, A1, Meckler, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that if Democrats face a complicated political picture as they take a stand on the deal, for Republicans the situation is not a whole lot easier. GOP candidates will be forced to pick between the party’s establishment and its populist base – a dangerous position given the current political climate. Donald Trump discussed his opposition to the deal on [Fox News’ Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (10/7, 1.53M) saying, “It’s not good for our country. We’re losing our jobs. We’re losing our money. We’re losing our base. We’re losing everything. These trade deals are negotiated by people that don’t know what they’re doing.”

Marcus: Clinton Could End Up With “Worst Of All Worlds.” Ruth Marcus, in the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Marcus, 6.76M), says Clinton “is facing one of the most fateful decisions of the presidential primary season,” a “true ‘Sophie’s Choice.’” In fact, “the best-case scenario for Clinton would have been to have negotiations blow up and therefore avoid having to take a position.” Marcus adds that “history suggests she will duck. And also that, after much hemming and hawing on Clinton’s part; after pundits like me pouncing on her evasiveness and inconsistency; after incessant pounding from interest groups and activists, Clinton will end up opposing the deal,” which “would be the worst of all worlds – which is, all too often, exactly where Clinton finds herself.”

WSJournal: TPP Is Flawed, But Still Could Do Some Good. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that the TPP has the potential to provide major economic and strategic benefits to the US. The Journal says it is withholding judgment on the deal – and whether the US could have done better – until the full details emerge, but it is worried that US negotiators may have given in too much to protectionist forces. In particular, it frets that five years is not enough time for IP protection, though it concedes that it is better than nothing for some of the countries. It also worries that some tariff schedules could be reduced faster. The Journal recommends that Congress carefully vet the agreement, adding that President Obama will need to do the heavy-lifting to persuade Congress to pass it.

US Trade Deficit Up In August. [Reuters](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the Commerce Department said yesterday that the US trade deficit increased by 15.6% in August to \$48.3 billion.

Japanese PM Hails TPP. The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Denyer, 6.76M) reports that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “hailed the hard-won Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal on Tuesday, saying it would help raise stubbornly anemic growth at home and boost the entire Asia-Pacific region.” Said Abe, “This is the beginning of a new century of the Asia-Pacific. ... It will create a vast economic zone of an unprecedented size...and Japan will be there as a central player.”

Accord A Key Issue In Canadian Campaign. The [New York Times](#) (10/7, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports from Ottawa that the deal arrived “amid an election campaign in Canada” and “ignited debate...instantly.” While there are plenty of domestic issues in play, the TPP’s “political effect could be enough to tip the balance in a contest where the Conservatives, New Democrats and Liberals, under [Prime Minister] Justin Trudeau, have been locked in a near three-way tie in polling since the campaign began in August.” The Times adds that “the Liberal Party led the unsuccessful fight against free trade with the United States in 1988,” but Trudeau “now describes his party as a champion of trade pacts.” However, “he has said that he cannot endorse the Trans-Pacific deal until its full text is available.”

EARNEST: MEDICAID EXPANSION WOULD HELP COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE. [The Hill](#) (10/6, Hensch, 471K) reported in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog that White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that by “pushing for the expansion of Medicaid,” the 2016 Republican presidential field could aid the fight against gun violence. Earnest argued that many of the GOP presidential hopefuls “talk about improving mental healthcare,” adding, “One of the biggest providers of mental healthcare — especially in disadvantaged communities — is Medicaid. For those who say they want to work with the administration in limiting gun violence, we would welcome the support for the Affordable Care Act and expanding Medicaid.”

Senate Democrats To Offer Gun Control Proposal Thursday. [The Hill](#) (10/6, Camey, 471K) reported in its

"Floor Action" blog that a new gun control proposal is expected from senate Democrats in Thursday. Senate Minority Leader Reid told reporters, "We've had a number of meetings today with Democratic senators. ... So we're going to move forward. We have a program. We're going to do some press on this on Thursday." Reid "declined to get into details" of the Democrats' proposal, saying, "We're going to make sure this is inclusive, that all my caucus is involved in this, and we're not going to outline stuff here today."

WPost Calls For Gun Law Reform. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, 6.76M) calls for reform of the nation's gun laws, citing last weekend's shooting of an 8-year-old girl by an 11-year-old boy in Tennessee after the girl refused to let him see her puppy. The Post argues that "only reform of our gun laws can begin to reduce the number of children whose lives are lost or ruined because of guns."

Zalles: Ammunition Buyers Should Be Licensed. In a [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Zalles, 6.76M) op-ed, Jeffrey Zalles, president of the Marin County, CA chapter of the Brady Campaign, suggests that we stop "worrying about the guns" and focus "on the bullets," by requiring buyers of ammunition to be licensed and marking shells with a serial number. Zalles adds that to offset criticism from gun owners that this amounts to "a big-government intrusion into their privacy and constitutional rights," the NRA should be responsible for issuing the licenses.

Witnesses: Oregon Shooter Believed He Was "Freeing" Victims. [ABC World News](#) (10/6, story 6, 1:25, Karlinsky, 5.84M) reported that according to "law enforcement sources," alleged Oregon community college shooter Chris Harper Mercer left behind writings in which "he says other people think I'm crazy, but I'm not. I'm the sane one." ABC cites witnesses who say Mercer "seemed to think by killing his victims, he was freeing them." In a brief report, the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/6, story 7, 0:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the first of the funerals for victims of the shooting will be held Thursday, adding that the President "will meet with relatives of the victims on Friday."

[ABC World News](#) (10/6, story 5, 2:05, Vega, 5.84M) reported that GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson was asked, what he would do if he was confronted by a gunman who asked his religion, as the Oregon shooter did. Carson: "I'm glad you asked that question, because not only would I probably not cooperate with him, I would not just stand there and let him shoot me. I would say, hey guys, everybody attack him. He may shoot me but he can't get us all." ABC added that Carson "also bash[ed] President Obama's plan to visit with victims, saying, if he were elected, he would not go." In addition, he "suggest[ed] that even some kindergarten teachers should be armed."

The [New York Times](#) (10/7, Rich, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports on efforts by colleges and universities to guard against and prepare for mass shootings, noting that for most, such shootings "are now on the list of hazards — from fires and bombings to natural disasters like earthquakes in the West and tomadoes in the South — for which they must prepare." since the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, "colleges have been strengthening their security measures," and about "two-thirds of four-year colleges or universities with more than 2,500 students have dedicated armed officers on campus, according to the Department of Justice." In addition, colleges have "beefed up high-tech communications systems to send emergency instructions to students and staff members, and added features like automatic locking mechanisms for dormitory and classroom doors."

AP Analysis: Despite GOP Claims, Chicago's Gun Laws Aren't That Tough. An [AP](#) (10/7) analysis examines claims by Republican presidential candidates Chris Christie, Donald Trump, and Carly Fiorina that the increase in homicides and shootings this year in Chicago, which "has a reputation for having some of the country's strictest gun laws," is "proof that gun control doesn't work." The AP notes that the city's gun laws "aren't as tough as their reputation suggests," as "courts have overturned or gutted many of them in recent years, forcing a city that once banned handguns and gun shops to allow them both."

Milwaukee Officers Testify Against Store That Sold Gun Used To Shoot Them. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/6, story 8, 2:15, Diaz, 5.08M) reported that Milwaukee police officer Bryan Norberg testified Tuesday "against the Milwaukee store that sold the gun that nearly killed him" in 2009 when he and his partner Graham Kunisch "stopped 18-year-old Julius Burton for riding his bike on a city sidewalk." After struggling with the officers, "Burton shot Norberg in the mouth. Kunisch was hit in the eye." According to both officers, "the weapon was negligently and unlawfully sold by Badger Guns." The charging document states that "in 2005, 537 guns recovered from crimes were traced back to" the store.

STATE DEPARTMENT DEMANDS INFORMATION OVER CLINTON-PETRAEUS EMAILS. Ed Henry reported on [Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (10/6, 1.53M) that Hillary Clinton is "playing defense" after the State Department on Tuesday sent a letter to her personal attorney "demanding to know why emails from January 2009 between Clinton and Gen. David Petraeus have emerged, despite her claim that official email did

not start on the personal account until that March." Henry also reported that Clinton bought a product from a Connecticut company in 2013 "that backed up all the emails in her server." Henry said this brings up questions as to whether her deleted personal emails are "still alive," and whether the private company has "access to the official email that had classified information."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/7, Dinan, 344K) reports that the State Department has told Clinton to "go back to her Internet companies and try to recover email messages from any personal email accounts that she used during her time in government, saying it appears she didn't turn over all of her documents." The Times says that Patrick F. Kennedy, under secretary of state for management, wrote in an Oct. 2 letter to David Kendall, Clinton's attorney, that the agency "has become aware of messages Mrs. Clinton sent to other government officials in her first few months" as secretary of state, "but which she did not turn over" to the department.

[McClatchy](#) (10/7, Gordon, Kumar, 28K), citing an unnamed source, says that Clinton "hired a Connecticut company to back up her emails on a 'cloud' storage system, and her lawyers have agreed to turn whatever it contains over to the FBI." McClatchy adds that Senate Homeland Security panel Chairman Sen. Ron Johnson has "also asked the firm to turn over to the committee copies of any Clinton emails still in its possession." McClatchy says, however, "There were conflicting accounts as to whether the development could lead to recovery of any of Clinton's more than 31,000 personal emails, which she said she deleted from her private server."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Helderman, 6.76M) reports, "The FBI's probe into the security of...Clinton's e-mail has expanded to include a second private technology company, which said Tuesday it plans to provide the law enforcement agency with data it preserved from Clinton's account. The additional data, provided by Connecticut-based Datto Inc., could open a new avenue for investigators interested in recovering e-mails deleted by" Clinton "that have caught the interest of GOP lawmakers." The Post adds, "Datto was hired to provide backups for the Clinton e-mail accounts starting in May 2013 by Platte River Networks, the Colorado-based tech firm hired earlier that year by the Clinton family to manage the system after Hillary Clinton concluded her term as secretary."

Email: Employee At IT Firm Hired By Clinton Feared A Cover-up. [Politico](#) (10/6, Bade, 942K) reported, "An employee at" Platte River Networks "was concerned that instructions from a Clinton-linked company would have the tech firm 'covering up some shady [sic] sh[**],' according to emails obtained by Senate investigators. Employees at" the IT firm "in a mid-August email chain were trying to find records that showed that Clinton Executive Service Corp., the company paying the Platte River bill, had instructed them to reduce the length of time backups of Clinton's emails were kept." One of the employees is quoted as writing in the email chain, "Starting to think this whole thing really is covering up some shady sh[**]. I just think if we have it in writing that they told us to cut the backups, and we can go public saying we have had backups since day one, then we were told to trim to 30 days, it would make us look a WHOLE LOT better."

Email Chain Shows Mills Forwarded Now-Classified Information To Clinton Foundation. [Politico](#) (10/6, Bade, 942K) reported that Cheryl Mills, who served as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's chief of staff, "twice forwarded information to the Clinton Foundation that was later deemed classified." Politico said that "a new email chain" that the conservative organization Citizens United obtained through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit shows that Mills "forwarded State Department background information about Rwanda and the Congo to the Clinton" Foundation. Politico added that ex-President Bill Clinton "was visiting Africa, including Rwanda, around the time that Mills sent the email." The former President "was also considering giving Rwandan President Paul Kagame a plenary role at the Clinton Global Initiative, according to the emails."

Group Wants State To Declare Whether Clinton Had Approval To Use Private Email System. [The Hill](#) (10/6, Hattem, 471K) reported that the conservative group Judicial Watch "is preparing a new attack in a protracted legal battle with the State Department over...Clinton's private email server." On Tuesday, attorneys with the group "said they would demand that the department declare whether Clinton received explicit approval to use a private email account and personal server while serving as secretary of State." Addressing US District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan on Tuesday, Michael Bekesha, an attorney for Judicial Watch, said, "We need to know whether or not Mrs. Clinton was authorized to use that system of records." Bekesha added that Clinton "was 'either approved' to use the sever...or she was a rogue employee."

Democrats To Propose Amendment To Shut Down Benghazi Panel. In a brief item, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/6, House, Rosenkrantz, 247K) reported that Rep. Louise Slaughter, the ranking Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, will propose a "House amendment to abolish" the panel. Slaughter spokesman James Owens said the congresswoman "will offer her amendment to a GOP bill creating a new select

[committee] on Planned Parenthood.” Bloomberg Politics said that the amendment “is unlikely to be advanced by GOP-controlled” panel. The move, which comes in the wake of House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy saying last week that the panel has hurt Democratic presidential frontrunner Clinton in the polls, “would be first official legislative attempt to scuttle” the committee.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“Mr. Putin’s Motives In Syria.”* A [New York Times](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial questions Putin’s motives in Syria and argues that it “may not be too late for [him] to reconsider.” Noting that the US and its allies “are in need of help and might well be open to cooperating with Russia on finding a combination of military and diplomatic measures that could curb the Islamic State” and “impose cease-fires that would give civilians some respite from the violence,” the Times says this “should be the priority for both the West and Russia,” adding that it “would certainly be a better way for Mr. Putin to satisfy his need for respect and a role in the Middle East.”

“Shut Down The Benghazi Committee.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the House Select Committee on Benghazi “should rename their laughable crusade... ‘the Inquisition of Hillary Rodham Clinton.’” The Times says “the effort to find” Clinton “personally responsible for the deaths has lost any semblance of credibility” and “become an insult to the memory of four slain Americans.” According to the Times, Clinton’s testimony on Oct. 22 “should be the last salvo for a committee that has accomplished nothing,” and if Republicans “insist on keeping the process alive, the Democrats should stop participating in this charade.”

“Why Student Debtors Go Rescued.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) blames student loan servicers for not helping to prevent defaults through “poor customer service” that leads to borrowers not understanding their full range of options. The Times calls on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to begin “vigorously enforcing the law and creating rules under which this wayward industry will be required to do business.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“The Intolerable Detention Of Jason Rezaian Reaches A Grim Milestone.”* The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Board, 6.76M) editorializes that reporter Jason Rezaian’s status as a “de facto hostage” should be viewed “as intolerable to the United States as was the captivity” of the 52 American diplomats in Iran in 1981. The Post says that Rezaian “is not only not guilty of any crime, but also has never been plausibly accused of one, or prosecuted according to Iran’s laws.”

“Shot And Killed Over A Puppy.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, 6.76M) calls for reform of the nation’s gun laws, citing last weekend’s shooting of an 8-year-old girl by an 11-year-old boy in Tennessee after the girl refused to let him see her puppy. The Post argues that “only reform of our gun laws can begin to reduce the number of children whose lives are lost or ruined because of guns.”

“South Sudan Is Still In Danger.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Board, 6.76M) argues that while the prospects for “permanent peace” in South Sudan “remain tenuous,” the US and others who have played a role in negotiations “must not abandon the people of this nation and must pressure the leaders to overcome their mistrust for a lasting settlement.” The Post says that President Salva Kiir “should shelve” his unilateral plan to change the country’s political map from 10 states to 28, as rebel leader Riek Machar has said the plan “definitely would” kill the peace deal if not amended. The Post also calls for both sides “to do more to stop” fighting, agree to terms for demilitarization in the capital of Juba, and bring “to justice those fighters and commanders who are responsible” for human rights violations during the civil war.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Pacific Trade Stakes.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that the TPP has the potential to provide major economic and strategic benefits to the US. The Journal says it is withholding judgment on the deal—and whether the US could have done better—until the full details emerge, but it is worried that US negotiators may have given in too much to protectionist forces. In particular it frets that five years is not enough time for IP protection, though it concedes that it is better than nothing for some of the countries. It also worries that some tariff schedules could be reduced faster. The Journal recommends that Congress carefully vet the agreement, adding that President Obama will need to do the heavy-lifting to persuade Congress to pass it.

“Syria’s Radiating Danger.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) calls Russia’s violations of Turkey’s airspace provocations and argues that each time they go unanswered,

Russia, Iran, and Syria will be emboldened to test limits of the US.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- Speaker Battle Could Take Toll
- Renters Taking Cost Of Retrofits In Stride
- Equal Pay For Women Gets A Boost
- A Deity Stands Sentry In India
- The Force Behind End-Of-Life Law

Wall Street Journal:

- Iraqis Urge Russia To Strike ISIS
- Battle Brews Atop Media Giant Viacom
- Fiorina’s H-P Tenure: A Disputed Legacy
- Trade Deal Throws Presidential Candidates A Curveball

New York Times:

- What An ISIS Chemical Strike Did To One Family
- US To Begin Freeing 6,000 From Prisons
- General Is Said To Think Attack Broke US Rules
- Stuttgart Has Long Made A Place For Migrants
- A Quixotic Bid To Be Speaker, But In Character
- Test Scores Under Common Core Show ‘Proficient’ Varies By State

Washington Post:

- Defending The Amazon
- 6,000 To Leave Prison Early
- A Thinning Case That Fat Causes Heart Ills
- An Enigmatic Computer Whiz — And Cruz’s \$11 Million Man
- Supreme Court: Get Your Own Habeas Corpus In Line

Financial Times:

- ISIS Claims It Launched Yemen Strike
- US Tech Titans Scramble To Comply After Europe Scraps Data Transfers
- Hedge Funds Suffer Worst Post Crisis Lows As Market Turmoil Rocks Big Names

Washington Times:

- ‘Cadillac Tax’ Repeal Mired In Dispute On Funding Fix
- State Tells Clinton To Fill ‘Gap’ Still Left In Months Of Emails
- Russia’s Campaign In Syria Allows Iran To Pursue Other Regional Feuds
- Senate Pushes Defense Policy Bill Through Filibuster Bar
- Equal Pay Law May Cause Firms To Flee California
- Romania Considers Legalized Bribery To Keep Doctors

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

- ABC:** Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; Weather Forecast; US Cargo Ship Search; United Flight-Pilot Illness; 2016 Politics-Ben Carson Gun Control; Oregon College Shooting-Shooter; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; ISIL-Transportation; ATM Fee Increases.
- CBS:** Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; US Cargo Ship Search; Syria-Russian Military Strikes; Syria Immigrant Crisis; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; President Obama-Troop Reduction; Oregon College Shooting; Milwaukee Gun Violence Case; Michigan Town-Contaminated Water.
- NBC:** Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; US Cargo Ship Search; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; Fantasy Football Site-Scandal; New York City-1990 Ruling Overturned; United Fight-Pilot Illness.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 7 minutes, 55 seconds

- US Cargo Ship Search – 6 minutes, 50 seconds
- United Airlines-Pilot Illness – 1 minute, 50 seconds
- Oregon College Shooting – 1 minute, 45 seconds
- Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

- ABC:** US Cargo Ship Search; Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; Energy-Heating Bill Prediction; MLB Playoffs Result.
- CBS:** Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; US Cargo Ship Search; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; Planned Parenthood-Congressional Committee Investigation; Wall Street.
- FOX:** Obama-Oregon Visit Criticism; Donald Trump Interview; Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; UAW-Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Negotiations; MLB Playoffs Result; California-Gender Gap Wage Bill; California-Renewable Energy Bill.
- NPR:** Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; US Cargo Ship Search; Washington-ACLU Lawsuit; Amtrak-PTC Deadline; UAW-Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Negotiations; MLB Playoffs Result.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Attends the 2015 White House Summit on Worker Voice; meets Vice President Joe Biden for lunch; meets visiting German President Joachim Gauck at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets President Obama for lunch.

US Senate: 11:00 AM Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Business Meeting Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

5:30 PM National Partnership for Women & Families Congressional reception – National Partnership for Women & Families 'Standing Up for Women and Families' Congressional reception, on specific legislative and policy proposals to make the nation 'more healthy, fair, and family friendly'. Participants include Members of Congress – including Democrats Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. Debbie Dingell – and National Partnership President Debra Ness Location: SVC 212, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/>
<https://twitter.com/NPWF>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Iranian influence in Iraq – Hearing on 'Iranian Influence in Iraq and the Case of Camp Liberty', with testimony from former National Security Advisor Gen. (Ret.) James Jones; former Sen. Joseph Lieberman; and former Forward Operating Base Ashraf Commander Col. (Ret.) Wesley Martin Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act – Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee hearing on 'S. 2102, The Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015', with testimony from Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Edith Ramirez; Covington & Burlington partner Deborah Garza; Baker & McKenzie Senior Counsel David Clanton; Latham & Watkins partner Abbott Lipsky, Jr.; and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati partner Jonathan Jacobson Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce Committee hearing on wireless broadband deployment – Hearing on 'Removing Barriers to Wireless Broadband Deployment', with testimony from National Telecommunications and Information Administration Associate Administrator for Telecommunications and Information Applications Douglas Kinkoph; PCIA – The Wireless Infrastructure Association President and CEO Jonathan Adelstein; Wilton Manors Mayor Gary Resnick; Deere & Company Senior Vice President for Intelligent Solutions Cory Reed; and Ericsson Region North America Vice President for Operations and Network Build Bruce Morrison Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://commerce.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the NIH – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'National Institutes of Health: Investing in a Healthier Future', with testimony from NIH Director Dr Francis Collins, National Cancer Institute Acting Director

Douglas Lowy, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Director Griffin Rodgers, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Director Walter Koroshetz, National Institute of General Medical Sciences Director Dr Jon Lorsch, and National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

1:30 PM Bicameral Dems at Rally for a Stronger American Future – House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, fellow Democrats Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Chris Van Hollen, other House and Senate Democrats, and NDD United Co-Chairs Emily Holubowich and Joel Packer attend Rally for a Stronger American Future, highlighting 'the need for a bipartisan agreement on appropriations that raises sequester caps on both defense and non-defense priorities so that we can better invest in our nation's security, economic growth, and opportunity' Location: east front lawn, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:15 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 1579, a bill to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States' and 'H.R. 487, an act to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands' Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:15 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 817, a bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon', 'S. 818, a bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, and for other purposes', 'S. 1436, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes', 'S. 1761, a bill to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes', 'S. 1822, a bill to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes' S. 1986, a bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada', and 'H.R. 387, an Act to provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes' Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Hearing on 'Protecting Seniors from Identity Theft: Is the Federal Government Doing Enough?' Location: Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on North Korea – East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the North Korea Threat and U.S. Policy: Strategic Patience or Effective Deterrence?', with testimony from Kirkland & Ellis partner Jay Lefkowitz; Center for Strategic and International Studies Korea Chair Dr Victor Cha; and Georgetown University Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy Robert Gallucci Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM Pelosi and House Democratic leaders hold press event calling for action to keep Medicare affordable for seniors – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Caucus Chairman Xavier Becerra, Democratic Caucus Vice Chairman Joe Crowley, Seniors Task Force Co-Chairs Doris Matsui and Jan Schakowsky, and American seniors who rely on Medicare hold a press event to call on Speaker Boehner and House Republicans to take urgent action to keep Medicare Part B premiums and deductibles affordable for millions of America's seniors Location: House Triangle Location, U.S. Capitol Complex, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

10:00 AM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'The Rising Costs of Higher Education and Tax Policy' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

12:45 PM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on food security in Africa – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Food Security and Nutrition Programs in Africa', with testimony from former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns; Catholic Relief Services President and CEO Dr Carolyn Woo; One Acre Fund Director of Global Policy David Hong; and Chicago Council on Global Affairs Senior Fellow for Global Agriculture and Food Roger Thurow Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACRepublicans>

5:30 PM National Partnership for Women & Families Congressional reception – National Partnership for Women & Families 'Standing Up for Women and Families' Congressional reception, on specific legislative and policy proposals to make the nation 'more healthy, fair, and family friendly'. Participants include Members of Congress – including Democrats Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. Debbie Dingell – and National Partnership President Debra Ness Location: SVC 212, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/>
<https://twitter.com/NPWF>

9:00 AM Secretaries Vilsack and Burwell testify to House committee on developing 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans – Hearing on '2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans', with testimony from Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Science subcommittees joint hearing on EPA's ozone standard – POSTPONED: Environment Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on 'EPA's 2015 Ozone Standard: Concerns Over Science and Implementation', with testimony from former Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Jeffery Holmstead; National Medical Association Environmental Health Task Force Co-Chair Dr Mark Mitchell; and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Toxicology Division Director Dr Michael Honeycutt Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM VA Secretary McDonald testifies to House committee hearing on the VHA – Hearing on 'A Call for System-Wide Change: Evaluating the Independent Assessment of the Veterans Health Administration', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald, and Under Secretary for Health David Shulkin; MITRE Corporation Senior Vice President Richard Byrne; and Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute Senior Fellow Brett Giroir Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on aviation safety and UAS – Aviation Subcommittee hearing on 'Ensuring Aviation Safety in the Era of Unmanned Aircraft Systems', with testimony from Federal Aviation Administration Deputy Administrator Michael Whitaker; U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry James Hubbard; Air Line Pilots Association President Tim Canoll; Academy of Model Aeronautics Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs Rich Hanson; and professor of aeronautics and astronautics Dr Mykel Kochenderfer Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on EPA CO2 regulations – Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on 'EPA's CO2 Regulations for New and Existing Plants', with testimony from Environmental Protection Agency Acting Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Education Committee hearing on Head Start – Hearing on 'Strengthening Head Start for Current and Future Generations', with testimony from National Centers for Learning Excellence CEO and Executive Director Dr Timothy Nolan; Georgetown University Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division Chief Dr Matthew Biel; Bellwether Education Partners partner Sara Mead; and National Alliance for Hispanic Families President Yvette Sanchez Fuentes Location: CVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the DHS NPPD – Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Mission, Structure, and Reorganization Effort of the National Protection and Programs Directorate', with testimony from Under Secretary of Homeland Security for National Protection and Programs Suzanne Spaulding, Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications Dr Phyllis Schneck, and Deputy Under Secretary for National Protections and Programs Dr Ronald Clark; and Government Accountability Office Homeland Security and Justice Team Director of Emergency Management, National Preparedness, and Critical Infrastructure Protection Chris Currie Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on reforming food aid – Hearing on 'Reforming Food Aid: Desperate Need to Do Better', with testimony from former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman; former USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah; Cornell University Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management Professor Dr Christopher Barrett; and Bread for the World President Rev. David Beckmann

Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Secure Immigration Identity Documents' Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>

10:15 AM Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Improving Federal Spectrum Systems' Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM Hearing on 'The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Its Impact on the Security of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on the EMV deadline – Hearing on 'The EMV Deadline and What it Means for Small Businesses', with testimony from Visa Vice President for Risk Products Stephanie Ericksen; ETA | Electronic Transactions Association Senior Vice President for Government Affairs Scott Everett Talbott; TCM Bank President and CEO Paul Weston; and State Department Federal Credit Union President/CEO Jan Roche (on behalf of National Association of Federal Credit Unions) Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:30 AM 'The Women behind the Science of Fragrance' event – 'STEM Makes Scents: The Women behind the Science of Fragrance': International Fragrance Association North America (IFRA North America) in coordination with American Association of University Women (AAUW) holds panel discussions featuring 'the fragrance industry as a conduit for STEM careers for young women', highlighting 'the heavy reliance on the sciences for fragrance innovation and how women can benefit from access to education and jobs in this field'. Participants include bipartisan Reps. Elizabeth Esty and Susan Brooks and female executives and perfumers from the fragrance industry. AAUW present their research 'Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering & Computing' Location: HVC-201, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://ifrana.org/>
https://twitter.com/Make_Scents #addwomen

12:00 PM House debates Homebuyers Assistance Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 3192 – Homebuyers Assistance Act' and possibly also a 'Resolution Establishing a Select Investigative Panel related to Planned Parenthood' Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

12:15 PM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Chinese President Xi Jinping's State Visit – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on 'Reviewing President Xi's State Visit', with testimony from Chen Guangcheng Foundation founder Chen Guangcheng; Cornell University Associate Professor of Government Dr Jessica Chen Weiss; FireEye Chief Security Strategist Richard Bejtlich; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Project on Chinese Business and Political Economy Director Dr Scott Kennedy Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

1:00 PM House Workforce Committee hearing on OSHA enforcement – Hearing on 'Protecting America's Workers: An Enforcement Update from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr David Michaels Location: Rm 2261, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

1:30 PM Bicameral Dems at Rally for a Stronger American Future – House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, fellow Democrats Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Chris Van Hollen, other House and Senate Democrats, and NDD United Co-Chairs Emily Holubowich and Joel Packer attend Rally for a Stronger American Future, highlighting 'the need for a bipartisan agreement on appropriations that raises sequester caps on both defense and non-defense priorities so that we can better invest in our nation's security, economic growth, and opportunity' Location: east front lawn, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/
<https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 702, to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions' and 'H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on plutonium disposition and the MOX Project – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Plutonium Disposition and the MOX Project', with testimony from National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Frank Klotz; Secretary of Energy's Senior Advisor John MacWilliams; and Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director Dr Thom Mason Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.amedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>

Wednesday, Oct. 07 – Thursday, Oct. 08 4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on 'H.R. 974, Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act', 'H.R. 1107, Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act', 'H.R. 1452, To authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance', 'H.R. 1820, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2212, To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2270, Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act', 'H.R. 2406, SHARE Act', and 'H.R. 3382, Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2015' * Concludes tomorrow Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Wednesday, Oct. 07 – Thursday, Oct. 08 Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley address CHCI Presidential Candidates Forum – Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference, incl CHCI Presidential Candidates Forum addressed by 2016 Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and outgoing Secretary of Education Arne Duncan also deliver remarks at the conference today Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC hnm.chci.org [#2015HHM](https://twitter.com/CHCI)

Other: 9:00 AM Secretaries Duncan and Castro at event on 'stemming chronic absenteeism' – Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, President's Assistant Broderick Johnson, and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro at event on 'the importance of stemming chronic absenteeism' * Last week, President Barack Obama announced that Secretary Duncan would be stepping down later this year, to return to his family in Chicago Location: Patterson Elementary School, 4399 S Capitol Terrace SW, Washington, DC <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml> <https://twitter.com/usedgov>

9:30 AM Senate Public Works Committee hearing on NRC oversight – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission', with testimony from NRC Chairman Stephen Burns, and Commissioners Kristine Svinicki, William Ostendorff, and Jeffrey Baran Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of 'S. 708, Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015', 'S. 1607, Independent Agency Regulatory Analysis Act of 2015', 'S. 1818, Principled Rulemaking Act of 2015', 'S. 1820, Early Participation in Regulations Act of 2015', 'S. 1817, Smarter Regs Act of 2015', 'S. X, Directing Dollars to Disaster Relief Act of 2015', 'S. 1873, Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2015', 'S. X, Inspector General Mandates Reporting Act of 2015', 'S. X, Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015', 'S. 2021, Fair Chance Act', 'S. Res. 104, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the success of Operation Streamline and the importance of prosecuting first time illegal border crossers', 'S. 2093, to provide that the Secretary of Transportation shall have sole authority to appoint Federal Directors to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority', 'H.R. 998, Preclearance Authorization Act of 2015', and postal naming bills Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

3:00 PM Secretary of State Kerry commemorates arrival of a Berlin Wall segment to be displayed in the U.S. Diplomacy Center – Secretary of State John Kerry commemorates the arrival of a segment of the Berlin Wall that will be displayed in the U.S. Diplomacy Center Location: State Department, Washington, DC www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

10:00 AM Transportation Secretary Foxx at MyCarDoesWhat campaign announcement – National Safety Council and University of Iowa, with the Department of Transportation, unveil the MyCarDoesWhat campaign – a new program to educate drivers and highlight new safety technologies, using videos, graphics, ads, public service announcements, and a website – via a press conference, with speakers including Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Adm. Mark Rosekind, National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman T. Bella Dinh-Zarr, National Safety Council President and CEO Deborah Hersman, and University of Iowa Transportation and Vehicle Safety Research Program Director Daniel

McGehee Location: Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nsc.org/>
<https://twitter.com/NSCsafety>

3:15 PM AG Lynch at DoJ Summit on Violent Crime – Department of Justice Summit on Violent Crime, convened by Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates, and other DoJ officials as part of the Obama Administration commitment to improving public safety and building stronger communities, giving participants an opportunity to identify and examine effective violent crime reduction strategies that have contributed to the historic decline of crime and violence, understand the nature and potential causes of recent upticks in violence in some jurisdictions, discuss collaborative efforts to tackle violent crime, and explore potential DoJ resources that could be used to assist in efforts to reduce crime. Other participants include the heads of the Office of Justice Programs, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Attorneys from participating jurisdictions, and other senior administration officials Location: Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC <http://www.usdoj.gov> <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I wanna start off by saying congrats to Barack and Michelle Obama, who just celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary. I guess that explains why this morning Barack was seen running towards the Rose Garden with a vase and a pair of scissors."

Jay Leno (who made an appearance on "The Tonight Show" to deliver part of the nightly monologue): "Oh, the election's getting nasty. Because Ralph Nader called Hillary Clinton a corporatist and a militarist. Isn't that unbelievable? Ralph Nader is still alive."

Jay Leno: "And Hillary Clinton not the only Democrat running. Martin O'Malley, ex-governor of Maryland, you know him? He's running for president. See look, nobody knows him. He's two percent in the polls. He's been in the race for eight months and he's only tied with low-fat milk."

Jay Leno: "After that last debate, Marco Rubio being called the best communicator in the Republican Party. Which is kind of like being the smartest Kardashian."

Jay Leno: "You know, a lot of people think that when the Republicans field begins to clear, it will be down to Jeb Bush and Donald Trump. Kind of like the race between the tortoise and the bad hair."

Jay Leno: "Bernie Sanders getting a lot of traction. In fact, if Bernie Sanders wins, he'll be the first socialist elected president since 2008. That's something to think about."

Conan O'Brien: "Yesterday, Hillary Clinton criticized Donald Trump during an interview on Telemundo. Clinton knew if there was one place she could criticize Trump without him finding out about it, it's on Telemundo. She's safe."

Conan O'Brien: "It's being reported that Donald Trump is mentioned on social media seven times more often than any other Republican candidate. Seven times more often. Yeah, and that's just by Donald Trump."

Conan O'Brien: "Donald Trump's campaign sent Marco Rubio 24 bottles of water because, according to Trump, Rubio is always sweating. In response, Rubio's campaign sent Trump some water and vinegar because Trump is always a douche."

Conan O'Brien: "I couldn't believe this – it was reported today that there are 1,200 fringe candidates running for president. Fringe candidates include Deez Nuts, Mickey Mouse, and Senator Ted Cruz."

Seth Meyers: "Dr. Ben Carson hosted a Facebook Q&A last night and said the loss of gun rights is more devastating than seeing people die from gun violence. So if Ben Carson is your doctor, definitely get a second opinion."

Seth Meyers: "According to experts, Sen. Marco Rubio is now expected to be the favorite candidate of GOP officials to secure the Republican nomination. So in what has to be his nightmare scenario, Donald Trump is

being replaced by a Latino.”

Seth Meyers: “USA Today has found that Republicans commit twice as many grammatical errors during speeches and debates as Democrats. For instance, Republicans often end a sentence with a preposition, while Democrats often end a sentence with a forced, awkward laugh.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 23, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Announces That Sage Grouse Won't Be Listed As Endangered Species.](#)
- + [Sen. Udall Introduces Legislation In Wake Of Gold King Mind Spill.](#)
- + [Obama Declares California Valley Fire A Major Disaster.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Browns Canyon National Monument.](#)
- + [Congress Urged To Reauthorize Land and Water Conservation Fund.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Interior To Take A Dozen Parcels Into Trust For Mohegans.](#)
- + [Court Weighs Arguments On Whether Tribal Officials Must Comply With Subpoenas.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: BIA Approves Mashpee Wampanoag Land Into Trust Application.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Deputy Secretary Connor Defends Westlands Water District Agreement.](#)
- + [BOR Urged To Prioritize Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [BOEM Finds No Significant Environmental Impact In Wind Leasing Off North Carolina Coast.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Federal Advisory Council Recommends Cancellation Of Badger-Two Medicine Leases.](#)
- + [Environmental Groups Threaten To Sue Over Northern Long-eared Bat.](#)
- + [North Dakota Oil Producers Spar With Regulators Over Proposed Rules.](#)
- + [Geologist: Slowing Saltwater Injections Coincides With Diminished Earthquakes In Kansas.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Public Listening Sessions On Federal Coal Leasing Program.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [BOEM Issues Proposed Guidelines On Paying To Dismantle Offshore Facilities.](#)
- + [Critics Point To Records Showing Lack Of Offshore Environmental Enforcement.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Bill Would Remove Some Wildlife Study Area Designation In New Mexico.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Investigation Opened Into Deaths Of 25 Walrus On Alaska Beach.](#)
- + [Timelines Set For Considering Protection For Seven Aquatic Species.](#)

- + [Decision On Listing Eels On Endangered List Expected Next Week.](#)
- + [FWS Opts To Crush Ivory, Rather Than Burn It.](#)
- + [Green Sea Turtles Having Record Year.](#)
- + [Santa Ana Sucker Case Appealed To Supreme Court.](#)
- + [Experts Caution Against Drawing Conclusions About Climate Change From Starving Polar Bear Picture.](#)
- + [NMFS Proposes Listing Two Types Of Grouper.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [Landmark Music Festival Could Be Beginning Of End Of Free Music At National Mall.](#)
- + [New York Lawmakers Push For Stonewall National Park.](#)
- + [Great Rivers Greenway Executive Director Approves Spending For Arch Grounds Operating Costs.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of "Every Kid In A Park" Initiative.](#)
- + [Political Leaders Criticized For Not Supporting NPS.](#)
- + [New Leader Of Colorado National Monument Urged To Connect With Community.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [Native Americans Seek Name Change For Wyoming's Devils Tower.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [White House: Obama Looks Forward To Discussing "Shared Values" With Pope.](#)
- + [McConnell: Senate To Hold Test Vote On CR Stripping Planned Parenthood Funding.](#)
- + [Clinton Comes Out Against Keystone.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES THAT SAGE GROUSE WON'T BE LISTED AS ENDANGERED SPECIES. The [Greenwire](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced on Tuesday that the FWS will not list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The determination by FWS scientists that a listing is "not warranted" is due to an "epic conservation effort" among federal, state and private partners, according to Jewell. In a prepared statement ahead of the announcement, Jewell said, "This is truly a historic effort – one that represents extraordinary collaboration across the American West."

The [AP](#) (9/23, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "flanked by the governors of Wyoming, Montana, Nevada and Colorado," Jewell said "at an event near Denver that a massive five-year effort to keep the bird off the endangered and threatened species list had paid off." According to the article, "that includes commitments of more than \$750 million from government and outside interest groups to buy up conservation easements and restore the bird's range."

[Politico Pro](#) (9/22) reports that Jewell said, "I'm optimistic that we have shown that epic collaboration across a landscape guided by sound science is truly the future of American conservation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that Jewell said, "These collective efforts add up to a bright future for the sage grouse."

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that "a northern Nevada rancher says a more trustful relationship between Western states and Washington helped avoid federal protections for the greater sage grouse that many argued would

threaten industry." According to the article, at Tuesday's announcement of the decision, "Duane Coombs says he inherited his father's distrust of the U.S. government but that cooperation between private landowners and federal officials to protect the bird has changed his mind."

The [AP](#) (9/23, 3.97M) reports that "Tuesday's announcement signals that the Obama administration believes it has struck a balance to save the widespread, ground-dwelling birds from extinction without crippling the West's economy." The article notes that "it follows a costly conservation effort, and could help defuse a potential political liability for Democrats heading into the 2016 election."

Decision Draws Mixed Reactions. The [Greenwire](#) (9/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the decision was "hailed as a conservation triumph by many officials and environmentalists but drew immediate threats of lawsuits and a congressional probe."

The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "environmentalists were divided over whether the measures went far enough to protect the bird from eventual extinction or were simply a sellout to business interests."

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Cama, 471K) reports that "the decision received widespread praise from conservationists and others." David Yamold, president of the National Audubon Society, said in a statement, "This is a new lease on life for the Greater Sage-Grouse and the entire sagebrush ecosystem." He added, "Unprecedented cooperation by private landowners, states, and the federal government has created a framework for conservation at a scale unique in the world."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Fears, 6.76M) reports that WildEarth Guardians, "which had pushed for sage grouse to be listed as endangered, said it appeared industry and its supporters had won." Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with the organization, said, "The sage grouse faces huge problems from industrial development and livestock grazing across the West, and now the Interior Department seems to be squandering a major opportunity to put science before politics and solve these problems." Also, "a second group, Defenders of Wildlife, predicted that in the absence of an endangered listing, current plans would fall short."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/23, 213K) reports that "industry groups like the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, representing the hundreds of power utilities that serve rural America, say Tuesday's determination deserves praise because it endorses a plan put forward by Western governors, and will enable transmission line development to continue in the west."

On the other hand, [USA Today](#) (9/22, Bacon, Rice, 5.23M) reports that the Independent Petroleum Association of America criticized the decision. Dan Naatz, a vice president for the group, said "the sage grouse can be protected without 'unworkable management plans' that harm business." He said, "Despite the numerous private-public partnerships and voluntary conservation efforts to conserve the greater sage grouse and its habitat, America's energy producers – and in turn, the American taxpayers – will suffer from these more-restrictive land management plans."

States Vary In Reactions. [McClatchy](#) (9/23, Cockerham, 28K) reports that House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said "new conservation measures being imposed by the Obama administration to protect the bird will still restrict Western development." Bishop said, "Do not be fooled. The announcement not to list the sage grouse is a cynical ploy. With the stroke of a pen, the Obama administration's oppressive land management plan is the same as a listing." Bishop said "he plans to hold a congressional hearing Sept. 30 to look into the issue." Also providing coverage are the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/23, 492K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/23, 492K), and [Utah Policy](#) (9/23).

But the [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that "a senior congressional Democrat says Republican criticism of the decision not to give federal protections to the greater sage grouse lacks credibility." Rep. Raul Grijalva says "House Republicans attack President Barack Obama when his administration lists a species as endangered and attack him when it decides against a listing, comparing the rhetoric to a game of 'Mad Libs.'"

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (9/23, 344K) reports that "reaction to the government's decision to deny the greater sage grouse protection under the Endangered Species Act runs the gamut in Nevada, home to some of the best quality remaining habitat in the West and second only to Wyoming in terms of sheer numbers of the bird." Sen. Harry Reid says "the Obama administration should be applauded for the 'unparalleled collaboration' by the Interior Department and 11 western states to avert the listing." But Sen. Dean Heller says "the administration used the 'threat of a listing to get what it really wanted all along' – further restrictions on development through

accompanying land use regulations.” However, “moderate Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, who traveled to Denver to join Secretary Sally Jewell for the announcement, says it’s a ‘huge win.’”

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that “people in the state with the most sage grouse and energy development in their habitat mostly welcomed Tuesday’s announcement by the Interior Department that the birds don’t need protection under the federal Endangered Species Act.” The article notes that “the decision means Wyoming’s coal, oil, gas, uranium and livestock industries won’t have to live with the possibility of strict limits to their business out in the sagebrush country.” Gov. Matt Mead said, “It provides a path forward for development. It provides a path forward to ensure that habitat is preserved for the sage grouse.”

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that “Montana officials are relieved by the Interior Department’s decision not to recommend endangered species protections for the greater sage grouse, but they are critical of the new conservation plans meant to protect the bird’s habitat on federal lands.” Gov. Steve Bullock has “criticized the BLM plans as being more restrictive than the state’s own sage grouse conservation plan.” Bullock spokesman Mike Wessler says “state officials will pressure the BLM to adjust its plans to make them more consistent with Montana’s.”

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter says “the federal government replaced transparency with closed-door meetings while deciding to deny protections for the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act.” Otter says “the land management schemes drafted by the federal government remain a mystery for property owners and state and local wildlife officials.” Otter “warned the issue was far from over.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/23, 74K), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (9/23, 1K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (9/23, 7.05M), [Fox Business](#) (9/22, 418K), [NPR](#) (9/22, 1.85M), [NPR](#) (9/22, 1.85M), [Reuters](#) (9/22, Coffman), [Reuters](#) (9/22), [Reuters](#) (9/22, Coffman), [Reuters](#) (9/23, Coffman), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/22, Murtaugh, 2.66M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/22, 455K), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/23, 164K), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Yardley, 4.07M), the [Denver Post](#) (9/23, Finley, 787K), the [Oregonian](#) (9/23, 756K), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/23, 378K), the [Daily Caller](#) (9/23, Bastasch, 375K), [Newsweek](#) (9/23, 198K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (9/23, 20K), the [White House Blog](#) (9/22, 72K), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (9/23, 1K), [Nation](#) (9/23, 361K), [County 10](#) (9/22), the [National Geographic](#) (9/23, 31.65M), [Common Dreams](#) (9/22, 12K), [Popular Science](#) (9/23, 6.51M), [Scientific American](#) (9/23, 2.99M), [Think Progress](#) (9/22, 453K), [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (9/23, 72K), [WBUR-FM Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (9/22, 113K), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (9/22, 191K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/22, 79K), [KNPR-FM Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (9/23, 1K), [KXLO-FM Lewiston \(MT\)](#) Lewiston, MT (9/23), [KSJR-FM Collegeville \(MN\)](#) Collegeville, MN (9/22, 60K), [KBZK-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (9/23, 785), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/23, 121K), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/22, 180K), [KELO-AM Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (9/22), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/23, 30K), [KAJ-TV Kalispell \(MT\)](#) Kalispell, MT (9/23, 909), [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/22, 222K), [KAUZ-TV Wichita Falls \(TX\)](#) Wichita Falls, TX (9/23, 447), [KKCO-TV Grand Junction \(CO\)](#) Grand Junction, CO (9/23, 508), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/23, 494K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/22, 79K), [WBUR-FM Boston](#) (9/22, 113K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) (9/23, 494K), and [KUNC-FM Greeley, CO](#) (9/23, 5K).

Also providing coverage are the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, 115K), the [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (9/23, 22K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/22, 1.12M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/23, 1.05M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/23, 548K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 344K), the [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/23, 44K), [The East Oregonian](#) (9/22, 24K), the [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (9/23, 91K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (9/22, 190K), the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/23, 32K), the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (9/23), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (9/22, 199K), the [Peoria \(IL\) Journal Star](#) (9/22, 181K), [Fox News](#) (9/22, 8.91M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/23, 1.05M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/23, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/23, 5.59M), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/22, 28K), the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (9/23, 19K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (9/22, 30K), the [Grand Island \(NE\) Independent](#) (9/23, 54K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [US News & World Report](#) (9/22, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Fears, 6.76M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/23, 99K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 1.19M), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (9/23, 103K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/22, Martin, 2.66M), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (9/23, 161K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/23, Brown, Volz, 5.98M), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (9/23, 172K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/23, 94K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/23, Finley, 787K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily](#)

[Sentinel](#) (9/23, 73K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/23, 259K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (9/22, 2.46M), [NBC News](#) (9/23, 3.73M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/23), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 344K), [The Steamboat Pilot & Today](#) (9/22, 30K), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/23, 100K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, 115K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/23, 5.98M), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (9/22, 68K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (9/22, 10K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (9/22, 179K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/21, Press, 6.76M), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (9/23), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (9/22, 506), the [Lahontan Valley \(NV\) News](#) (9/23, 11K), the [Tahoe \(CA\) Daily Tribune](#) (9/23, 27K), the [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (9/23, 20K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (9/23, 1K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/22, 132K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/23, 962K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/22, 15K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/23, 73K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (9/22, 44K), the [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (9/23, 8K), the [Colorado Independent](#) (9/23, 1K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, 115K), and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/23, 22K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [ABC](#) (9/23, 3.97M), [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/23, 1.19M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/23, 1.05M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/23, 5.59M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/23, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [US News & World Report](#) (9/22, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Mead Gruver |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Gruver, 344K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/23, 99K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Press, 6.76M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/23, 5.59M), the [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (9/23, 72K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/23, Press, 1.19M), the [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (9/23, 117K), the [US News & World Report](#) (9/22, 811K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Fears, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 344K), and the [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (9/23, 40K).

SEN. UDALL INTRODUCES LEGISLATION IN WAKE OF GOLD KING MIND SPILL. The AP (9/23, Press, 787K) reports that “the federal government would be required to identify the most dangerous abandoned mines in the West and make plans to clean them up under legislation introduced Tuesday in response to the spill of millions of gallons of toxic wastewater from a Colorado mine.” Sen. Tom Udall “outlined the proposal during a conference call with reporters.” Udall said “the main focus would be compensating communities affected by the spill, but another goal is to prevent future environmental disasters.”

OBAMA DECLARES CALIFORNIA VALLEY FIRE A MAJOR DISASTER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Rocha, 4.07M) reports President Obama has declared a major disaster for the Valley Fire in California, freeing up “federal assistance for home repairs, replacements and other aid.” Gov. Jerry Brown requested the declaration.

Additional Coverage Of Wildfires. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/22, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (9/22, 105K), [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (8/10, 191K) and [Homeland Security Today](#) (9/23).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (9/23, 9K) reports that “Browns Canyon National Monument was designated by President Barack Obama in February, the capstone to a decades-long grassroots effort to secure permanent protection for the 22,000-acre parcel northwest of Salida.” The article notes that “a dedication ceremony was held for Browns Canyon in June,” and “speakers included Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, among many other state, federal and local representatives.”

CONGRESS URGED TO REAUTHORIZE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. In an op-ed for the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/23, 32K), Dan and Keri Schwartz, the owners and operators of Ripple Creek Lodge, urges Congress to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund. They say that “if you’ve ever hunted, fished, hiked or camped on our nation’s public lands, chances are you’ve benefited directly from investments made by the LWCF.” The authors also note that the “LWCF has delivered these benefits to Colorado and nationwide without depending on taxpayer dollars.”

Additional pieces in support of the LWCF appear in the [Oregonian](#) (9/23, 756K), the [Montana Standard](#) (9/23, 36K), the [Conway \(NH\) Daily Sun](#) (9/23, 49K), the [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (9/22, 561K), and the [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (9/23, 167K).

Also providing coverage of the LWCF is the [Northern Arizona Today](#) (9/23).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR TO TAKE A DOZEN PARCELS INTO TRUST FOR MOHEGANS. The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (9/22, 77K) reports that the Interior Department “intends to take 12 parcels of Mohegan Tribe-owned land into trust for the tribe, removing the parcels from the local tax rolls.” According to the article, “in a notice published Friday, the Interior Department said the acting regional director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Eastern Region determined Sept. 14 that she would accept the parcels into trust ‘pursuant to the Mohegan Nation Land Claims Settlement Act.’” The article note that “the decision will become final at the end of a 30-day appeal period.”

COURT WEIGHS ARGUMENTS ON WHETHER TRIBAL OFFICIALS MUST COMPLY WITH SUBPOENAS. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/22, 75K) reports that “a federal court judge in Great Falls is weighing opposing legal arguments on whether tribal officials must comply with subpoenas demanding access to tribal government documents, or whether Indian tribes are immune from court orders to produce evidence because they are sovereign nations.” The “dispute came to a head based upon a lawsuit filed by Terry Matt, a Cut Bank attorney and enrolled member of the Assiniboine Tribe of Montana.” Matt is suing the BIA “for more than \$5 million in compensation for alleged damages that occurred when the BIA built a new road across Matt’s property.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BIA APPROVES MASHPEE WAMPANOAG LAND INTO TRUST APPLICATION. Additional coverage that the BIA “on Friday accepted the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe’s application for reservation status” was provided by [Connecticut Public Radio](#) (9/23), the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (9/23, 336K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/23, 548K), and the [Law 360](#) (9/23, 21K).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR DEFENDS WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT AGREEMENT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Boxall, 4.07M) reports that five years ago, Mike Connor, then commissioner of the BOR, “outlined the terms of potential legislation to resolve a lingering battle over badly drained farmland in the Westlands Water District.” However, “the agreement approved last week by the Obama administration and Westlands beats a long retreat from those requirements, prompting cries that a district legendary for its political sway and hardball tactics has once again come out on top.” Now deputy Interior secretary, Connor “helped negotiate the settlement, which must still be approved by Congress.” According to the article, “while disputing that the agreement gives away too much, Connor was forthright about the administration’s desire to escape the legal liability and mounting financial costs of dealing with the contaminated drain water that flows from Westlands fields.” He said, “We have a settlement that is a very significant financial benefit to the United States and the U.S. taxpayer.”

In his column for the [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (9/22, Columnist, 106K), Michael Fitzgerald criticizes the contract for being “open-ended.” According to Fitzgerald, “it’s as if the U.S. Department of the Interior hasn’t noticed that the Delta is dying or the changing climate of the West.”

BOR URGED TO PRIORITIZE YELLOWSTONE INTAKE DIVERSION DAM. The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (9/23, 10K) reports that Sen. Steve Daines “led the Montana and North Dakota congressional delegations Monday in urging the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to prioritize concerns at the Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam.” In a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy and BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez, “the bipartisan delegations emphasized the economic benefit that the dam provides to both Montana and North Dakota.” They wrote, “We urge ACE and BOR to address the concerns of the Court and conduct the necessary analyses in a timely manner to ensure this essential source of water for farmers, ranchers, and communities throughout much of northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota is not unduly disrupted.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM FINDS NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN WIND LEASING OFF NORTH CAROLINA COAST. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that “a federal government review says there will be no significant environmental or socioeconomic impacts in leasing tracts off the North Carolina coast for wind energy development.” The BOEM is “proposing three tracts off the coast for wind energy — one off Kitty Hawk

on the Outer Banks and two in the Cape Fear area near Wilmington.” The bureau’s North Carolina Renewable Energy Task Force will “hold a meeting Oct. 7 in Wilmington to discuss holding an auction for leasing tracts to wind energy companies.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WWAY-TV Wilmington \(NC\)](#) Wilmington, NC (9/22, 2K), [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#) Raleigh, NC (9/23, 193K), and [WITN-TV Greenville \(NC\)](#) Greenville, NC (9/23, 94K).

Onshore Energy Development:

FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS CANCELLATION OF BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASES. The [Greenwire](#) (9/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal advisory panel is urging the Obama administration to withdraw or cancel leases for natural gas drilling in Montana’s Lewis and Clark National Forest, east of Glacier National Park.” The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation “told the Departments of Interior and Agriculture that the Badger-Two Medicine area of northwest Montana – the source of the Blackfoot Tribe’s origin story – is too sacred for drilling.” The panel said that “gas exploration would lead to ‘serious and irreparable degradation’ in the 165,588-acre traditional cultural district, an area protected by the National Historic Preservation Act that includes parts of the Lewis and Clark forest, Flathead National Forest and Blackfoot Indian Reservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M) and the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (9/23).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THREATEN TO SUE OVER NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/22, 705) reports that several environmental groups have “threatened to sue the Obama administration over protections for the threatened northern long-eared bat.” The groups – including the Center for Biological Diversity, Coal River Mountain Watch, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and the Sierra Club – accused the FWS and the OSMRE “of failing to ensure that plans for two West Virginia strip mines protect the bat.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/22).

NORTH DAKOTA OIL PRODUCERS SPAR WITH REGULATORS OVER PROPOSED RULES. [Reuters](#) (9/22, Scheyder) reported that at Tuesday’s North Dakota Petroleum Council annual meeting, North Dakota’s oil producers sparred with federal regulators over a Bureau of Land Management proposal to more strictly regulate how crude is extracted from shale and an Environmental Protection Agency proposal over the use of small bodies of water in the US. These and other proposals have drawn criticism from industry members while environmentalists say they are crucial.

GEOLOGIST: SLOWING SALTWATER INJECTIONS COINCIDES WITH DIMINISHED EARTHQUAKES IN KANSAS. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/22, Carpenter, 109K) reported that a Kansas Corporation Commission decision “to limit injection of saltwater deep underground after drawn to the surface by oil producers coincided with diminished intensity of earthquakes in south-central Kansas, a state geologist said Tuesday.” Rex Buchanan, interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey, “said during a forum at the Kansas Energy Conference in Topeka the decline in magnitude of earthquakes mirrored adoption of the KCC’s rule in March.” The KCC “is poised to renew for another six months the injection restraints applicable in Harper and Sumner counties that were inspired by the proliferation of earthquakes rattling the region’s residents.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS ON FEDERAL COAL LEASING PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the public listening sessions held on the federal coal leasing program was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (9/22, 30K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM ISSUES PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON PAYING TO DISMANTLE OFFSHORE FACILITIES. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (9/22, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that under proposed guidelines issued by the BOEM Tuesday, “fewer companies will be able to self-insure to cover the eventual costs of decommissioning those offshore wells and platforms,” although “firms will have more flexibility to assemble financial assurance packages, without relying solely on expensive surety bonds as a guarantee.” The move “is designed to ensure that the companies have set aside enough money to dismantle offshore facilities once oil and gas stops flowing.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/22, 2.28M).

CRITICS POINT TO RECORDS SHOWING LACK OF OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT. [WWL-TV](#) New Orleans (9/22, 105K) reports that “the federal agency that regulates offshore oil and gas drilling and production has used budget increases since the BP disaster to hire dozens of engineers and geologists, but has all but ignored an environmental enforcement division beset by understaffing and massive work backlogs.” Michael Bromwich, “who created the Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to separate regulators from the influence of the oil and gas industry, set up an environmental enforcement division to make sure companies operate without damaging marine life and habitat.” However, “in the three budget years since Bromwich left, government records show only two of 10 funded vacancies have been filled.”

Also providing coverage is [USA Today](#) (9/23, Hammer, 5.23M).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BILL WOULD REMOVE SOME WILDLIFE STUDY AREA DESIGNATION IN NEW MEXICO. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (9/23, 18K) reports that “legislation that would get rid of some Wilderness Study Area designations in New Mexico has been introduced” by Rep. Steve Pearce. The legislation, “introduced Sept. 10, would return some Wilderness Study Area-designated areas in Luna and Hidalgo counties to the Bureau of Land Management so they can be used for other purposes.” Pearce said, “Allowing the BLM to open up these lands for multiple uses will not only benefit communities economically, but also restore habitats and watersheds, increase revenues and create jobs.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INVESTIGATION OPENED INTO DEATHS OF 25 WALRUS ON ALASKA BEACH. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that “federal prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into the deaths of 25 Pacific walrus found last week on an isolated northwest Alaska beach.” The FWS “on Wednesday received a report and photos of the dead animals found near Cape Lisburne on the Chukchi Sea about 230 miles northeast of the Bering Strait.” The article notes that “initial reports indicated the walrus — 12 pups and 13 adults — had been shot,” but “the agency would not speculate on the causes of death and sent two officers from its law enforcement division to investigate.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/21, Dan Joling |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/22, 455K), [BBC News](#) (9/23, 1.68M), and [UPI](#) (9/22).

TIMELINES SET FOR CONSIDERING PROTECTION FOR SEVEN AQUATIC SPECIES. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that “officials have agreed on timelines for determining whether seven aquatic species from nine states will be protected under the Endangered Species Act.” The species “include six fish and a freshwater mussel.” They are “the ashy darter, frecklebelly madtom, longhead darter, sickle darter, trispot darter, candy darter and yellow lance mussel.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Alabama Live](#) (9/23, 825K). Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, 344K), and [WWAY-TV Wilmington \(NC\)](#) Wilmington, NC (9/22, 2K).

DECISION ON LISTING EELS ON ENDANGERED LIST EXPECTED NEXT WEEK. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that “a decision from the federal government about whether to list American eels under the Endangered Species Act will likely come next week.” A spokesman for the FWS says “the decision is due by the end of September and will probably arrive close to the end of the month.”

FWS OPTS TO CRUSH IVORY, RATHER THAN BURN IT. [BBC News](#) (9/23, 1.68M) reports that a FWS “experiment suggested that burning ivory for a short time does not destroy it.” Gavin Shire from the FWS, said that “the US chose to crush, rather than burn, one tonne of its ivory stockpile in public in June because ivory ‘doesn’t catch fire the way you might imagine but rather just chars on the outside.’”

GREEN SEA TURTLES HAVING RECORD YEAR. The [New York Times](#) (9/21, Gorman, Subscription

Publication, 11.82M) reports that green sea turtles are rebounding. In the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, "they are having a record year." The article notes that "researchers and students at the University of Central Florida's Marine Turtle Research Group counted 12,804 nests as of Thursday in the 13 miles of the refuge's beaches that they monitor."

SANTA ANA SUCKER CASE APPEALED TO SUPREME COURT. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/23, 303K) reports that "a dozen Inland water providers that have long fought federal habitat protections for a small, algae-eating fish – the Santa Ana sucker – petitioned the United States Supreme Court on Tuesday to hear their case." The agencies claim the FWS "violated two federal environmental laws when it doubled the acreage of critical habitat – land considered crucial for recovery of a species – in 2010." They said that "the habitat designation jeopardizes numerous water capture and groundwater recharge projects planned for the Santa Ana River, from its upper reaches at the Seven Oaks Dam near Highland to Prado Dam near Corona."

Also reporting on the story are the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (9/22, 142K) and the [Courthouse News](#) (9/22, 7K).

EXPERTS CAUTION AGAINST DRAWING CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE FROM STARVING POLAR BEAR PICTURE. The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Harvey, 6.76M) reports that "last month, wildlife photographer Kerstin Langenberger shocked the world when she revealed a horrifying photograph of a severely emaciated polar bear, shot on the Norwegian island of Svalbard." According to the article, "in a Facebook post, she expressed her concerns about the health of the Svalbard polar bears and the ways climate change might be affecting the Arctic. Her photo, visible here, quickly went viral — having been shared more than 50,000 times since then." The article notes that "when Langenberger's photo surfaced, the immediate conclusion for many people was that the starving bear was the victim of warming-induced ice-melt in the Arctic." However, "while this is possible, experts are cautioning the public not to make the image the new face of climate change just yet." Eric Regehr, a polar bear biologist with the FWS in Alaska, said, "It is not possible to attribute this animal's specific condition to climate change, without more information on the animal's history and physiology."

NMFS PROPOSES LISTING TWO TYPES OF GROUPER. The [Greenwire](#) (9/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the National Marine Fisheries Service is "proposing to list two species of grouper under the Endangered Species Act, in its latest response to a petition from WildEarth Guardians to protect dozens of marine species." In a proposed rule, the federal agency "asserts that the gulf grouper should be listed as endangered and the island grouper as threatened."

National Park Service:

LANDMARK MUSIC FESTIVAL COULD BE BEGINNING OF END OF FREE MUSIC AT NATIONAL MALL. The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Higham, 6.76M) reports that for the NPS, the Landmark Music Festival near the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on Saturday and Sunday could "be a windfall for the agency and for the Mall" as "more than 40 bands will perform on five stages to raise money for the Park Service, helping the agency to restore and maintain the hallowed, historic grounds, the site of some of the nation's most defining moments." However, "the concert comes at a cost" because the festival "marks the first time a section of the mall and its memorials will be cordoned off for a concert and closed to the nonpaying public." The article notes that "activists and historians who monitor the Mall say the decision to charge admission to the music festival sets a troubling precedent that could signal an end to the days of free music in the national park, ushering in an era of pricey, multi-day festivals."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Ramanathan, 6.76M) and the [Huffington Post](#) (9/23, 164K).

NEW YORK LAWMAKERS PUSH FOR STONEWALL NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (9/21, Verena Dobnik |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that "two New York legislators are leading a campaign to designate Stonewall Inn as the first national park honoring LGBT history." Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. Jerrold Nadler "made their announcement Sunday in front of the Greenwich Village tavern that was the scene of a 1969 uprising at a key moment for the nascent gay rights movement." They were "joined by other elected officials and members of the National Parks Conservation Association and the Human Rights Campaign."

GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVES SPENDING FOR ARCH GROUNDS OPERATING COSTS. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/23, 968K) reports that the head of a taxpayer-funded trails district has "doubled her agency's commitment to pay yearly operating costs at the newly renovated Arch

grounds, acting without board approval and in the face of adverse financial projections.” The NPS, “which owns the park, has estimated that figure at \$2.6 million a year.” Great Rivers Greenway Executive Director Susan Trautman “agreed to split the bill with CityArchRiver, the foundation formed to raise private donations for the project.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF “EVERY KID IN A PARK” INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/22, 46K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (9/21, 646), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/22, 1.12M).

POLITICAL LEADERS CRITICIZED FOR NOT SUPPORTING NPS. In an op-ed for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Independent](#) (9/23, 53K), author Jim Hightower writes that “while our presidents praise America’s magnificent national park system, they’re not maintaining them.” He acknowledges that President Obama has “proposed a 2016 ‘Centennial Budget’ for NPS, mitigating years of destructive underfunding and calling for \$1 billion to address the backlog.” However, Hightower notes that “still leaves a \$10 billion shortfall, and the sour duo of Sen. Mitch McConnell and Speaker John Boehner will oppose even that little increase for the maintenance of these invaluable public assets.” Hightower concludes: “Our so-called ‘leaders’ are literally stripping ‘service’ out of the National Park Service and assuring that our national treasures will fall into acute disrepair. It’s a bipartisan disgrace.”

NEW LEADER OF COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT URGED TO CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/23, 73K) editorializes that “too often in the past we’ve seen NPS officials, both active and retired, staunchly ‘protecting’ the Colorado National Monument “instead of encouraging and welcoming users.” The paper argues that “the goal should be making the monument part of the surrounding community instead of an island onto itself.” It hopes that “Ken Mabery’s appointment as permanent superintendent of the monument” will be “a change in leadership” that will provide “a natural opportunity to re-establish a community connection.”

US Geological Survey:

NATIVE AMERICANS SEEK NAME CHANGE FOR WYOMING’S DEVILS TOWER. [Reuters](#) (9/22, Zuckerman) reports that spiritual leaders of the Sioux and more than a dozen Native American tribes want U.S. officials to rename Devils Tower. Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Great Sioux Nation and the head of the effort, said the name is offensive. In letters to President Barack Obama and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, Looking Horse has asked that it be renamed Bear Lodge.

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING “SHARED VALUES” WITH POPE. Pope Francis’ arrival in the US and his agenda during his visit led all three network news broadcasts, which dedicated more than 22 minutes of coverage to the story and are the subject of extensive print and online reporting. While the coverage touches on a wide range of issues surrounding the Pope’s visit, major themes include the issues he will highlight in his meeting with the President, as well as his address to Congress and the security preparations for the trip. The potential political impact of the Pope’s visit was a subtext to much of the coverage.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 2, 1:20, Holt, 7.86M), for example, Anne Thompson noted that the Pope “knows he has the world’s attention and we expect him to use it to hit” some of his favorite issues, such as climate change, immigration, and “the plight of the poor.” In a report outlining the Pope’s itinerary while he is in the US, the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Boorstein, 6.76M) says that while it is “already clear that Pope Francis will speak about immigration and religious liberty during a major address at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on Saturday,” his “unpredictable approach to the papacy means that ‘there’s just no template’ for his first US visit,” according to Catholic University theologian Chad Pecknold.

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22), White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the President “is looking forward” to discussing “shared values” when they meet at the White House on Wednesday. Earnest added that the meeting is not about efforts to “advance a political agenda but rather sit down and talk about values they have in common and how the two men in the very different roles they have in the public can advance those shared values together.” However, Kevin Corke reported on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/22) that while there are many areas of agreement between the Pope and Obama, there is also significant disagreement on issues such as same-sex marriage, abortion, stem cell research, and contraception.

The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Baker, Ahmed, Yardley, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the White House "sought to highlight the alignment between the president and the pope, while de-emphasizing areas of discord," and quotes Earnest as saying, "Both President Obama and Pope Francis have over the course of their careers demonstrated a commitment to values related to social and economic justice." [McClatchy](#) (9/23, Kumar, 28K) reports that while Earnest "did not reveal the agenda for the meeting Wednesday," he said "he would not describe it as a 'social meeting,'" adding, "When the president sits down with Pope Francis tomorrow in the Oval Office, the president will not arrive at that meeting with a political agenda. This is an opportunity for two men who have so many values in common to talk about the efforts that they are taking in their respective and quite different roles to advance those shared values."

Under the headline "Pope Of The Poor Arrives In US Denying He's A Liberal," the [AP](#) (9/23, Winfield, Zoll) says the Pope arrived in the US "denying he is a leftist." During his flight to the US, he "defended himself against conservative criticism that his condemnation of trickle-down economics makes him a communist," saying, "I am certain that I have never said anything beyond what is in the social doctrine of the church." The Pope added that "some may have misinterpreted his writings in a way that makes him sound 'a little bit more left-leaning,' but he said that's wrong."

Noting that, upon arrival, he "climbed into the back of a little Fiat," the [AP](#) (9/23, Winfield, Zoll) also says the Pope's "choice of car was in keeping with his simple habits and his stand against consumerism," and his "decision to roll down the windows reflected his penchant for trying to connect to ordinary people despite the tight security around him." [USA Today](#) (9/23, Woodyard, 5.23M) similarly notes that the Pope, "known for being humble and unassuming, chose a car that doesn't even break the \$20,000 barrier."

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M), Holt said that while "the next six days offer a chance to see and touch a leader who is inspired with his humbleness and compassion and mercy," the Pope's "outspokenness on matters of world affairs ensures his visit is seen through political eyes." [USA Today](#) (9/23, Korte, 5.23M) says the Pope's visit "will have political, diplomatic and spiritual ramifications," noting that it comes "at the convergence of pivotal moments for the United States, the church, and the world." The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Baker, Ahmed, Yardley, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) describes the Pope as "determined to press the world's last superpower to do more to care for the planet and its most marginalized inhabitants," adding that there is "not a small degree of tension over his message."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Wolf Blitzer characterized the Pope's Tuesday arrival in the US as "a visit by a world leader unlike one we've ever seen before," adding that it is "a first to have a president and Vice President greet the world leader" at Joint Base Andrews. The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Baker, Ahmed, Yardley, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) calls the President's "personal welcome" at Andrews "a sign of respect," noting that presidents "rarely greet foreign visitors at Andrews, instead waiting for them to make their way to the White House."

Lester Holt noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 9, 1:55, Holt, 7.86M) that "when the Pope arrived in Washington...he was greeted...by new generations of the American Catholics. Children selected to be among the first faces he saw as he stepped off the airplane." [AFP](#) (9/23) also reports briefly on the Pope's arrival. Scott Pelley noted on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, story 8, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) that "There are 80 million Catholics in America, and Francis has won most of them over." A CBS News/New York Times poll showed "63 percent have a favorable opinion of him."

In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, A1, Rocca, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that conservative Catholics in the US have concerns about the Pope's views on a number of issues and fear he is obscuring some of the church's fundamental teachings.

Other stories this morning cover a variety of issues surrounding the Pope's visit. For example, [USA Today](#) (9/23, Scammell, 5.23M) chronicles the evolution of the "popemobile," noting that it has "gone through numerous iterations as the Vatican has tried to balance safety, accessibility, spontaneity and technological innovation."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, Loyd, 641K) notes that the US Conference of Bishops has chartered a Boeing 777 to transport the Pope in the US. According to the Inquirer, the FAA "has approved 'Shepherd One' as the plane's call sign," and while the "papal seal will be on the side of the aircraft," there were "no major modifications to the plane," according to American spokesman Ross Feinstein.

Another story in the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, McCabe, 641K) reports on a Philadelphia area couple who are "one of only a few couples from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who were hand-selected to greet Francis during

his historic trip Saturday morning," noting that each couple was selected "for their commitment to the Church and their dedication to the sacrament of marriage." [TIME](#) (9/23, Dias, 19.55M), meanwhile, reported on an Iraqi couple who were invited by the Pope "to participate in his Extraordinary Synod of the Bishops on the Family last year," noting that when they "attempted to travel to Philadelphia during the Pope's visit," they were "prevented due to visa restrictions given the ongoing violence in Iraq."

Earnest: "No Theological Test" Before Handing Out Tickets To Arrival Ceremony. On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Earnest also discussed the guest list for the Pope's arrival ceremony, which includes a gay episcopal bishop, a transgender activist, and a nun who leads an organization that opposes the Vatican on several issues. Earnest said the attendees will include "thousands of people representing a variety of communities all across the country who are eager to welcome the Pope not just to the United States but the White House." Earnest said, "There's no theological test administered to people before they got tickets. Our goal here is to invite people just as inspired by the Pope and his message that the President himself is."

[Politico](#) (9/22, Toosi, 942K) said that while "Vatican representatives insist the pope is on a pastoral mission, his every word (most of which will be in his native Spanish) will likely be picked apart for political innuendo by both Democrats and Republicans," adding that "lawmakers and interest groups already have begun using the pontiff's visit to press their agendas, hosting rallies, sending out statements and making other public moves." On [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (9/22, 767K), Bill O'Reilly said in his "Talking Points Memo" that "wisely, the Pope doesn't want to be used in a photo op. That might indicate passive endorsement of a point of view the President might hold." O'Reilly added, "It's obvious the Vatican is aware of President Obama's overall agenda and is not endorsing it. However, the Pope is a liberal guy."

Pope Originally Wanted To Enter US From Mexico. [USA Today](#) (9/23, Jervis, 5.23M) reports that in Cuba on Tuesday morning, the Pope celebrated a Mass "at Our Lady of Charity shrine, dedicated to Cuba's revered patron saint," and "visited Santiago's main cathedral and blessed the city," before he boarded a plane to the US. Francis "expressed admiration for Cubans who have kept the faith alive," and said, "Generation after generation, day after day, we are asked to renew our faith. We are asked to live the revolution of tenderness as Mary, our Mother of Charity, did." The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, O'Reilly, 641K) reports that during the flight, the Pope said his original plan was not "to enter the United States from Cuba," adding, "I had wanted to enter the United States through Mexico" but it "would have been too difficult to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint, 'and that would have been a slap in the face' to the Mexican people."

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/23, Mazzei, 651K) reports that Miami's archbishop Thomas Wenski left Cuba on Tuesday "after what he deemed a successful trip bringing Roman Catholic pilgrims to Havana and welcoming Pope Francis before the pontiff's arrival in the US." Wenski, who "praised Francis' 'emotional' visit," said, "The fact that he's coming to the United States from Cuba – that's a very important gesture. ... It's a bridge he's establishing, a bridge between Cuba and the United States, a bridge between Cubans in the United States and Cubans on the island."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, Matza, 641K) profiles an "undocumented Mexican immigrant" who will be among a group of "56 pilgrims" traveling by bus "from the 25 Hispanic parishes in the Archdiocese of Mobile to Philadelphia for Saturday's epic Papal Mass on the Franklin Parkway."

Pope Says He Won't Address Cuba Embargo In Speech To Congress. A number of reports speculate on what the Pope will say during his address to Congress on Thursday. Scott Pelley reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, lead story, 3:20, Pelley, 5.08M) that "the Pope keeps his plans under his hat." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Parsons, 4.07M), however, notes that "Vatican officials have hinted that Francis may use his address to both houses of Congress on Thursday...or another stop in Washington to speak about the sanctity of life and his opposition to capital punishment, issues where he is at odds with Obama."

While the [Miami Herald](#) (9/23, Wyss, 651K) says that Cubans "said they hoped Francis, who has been key to the rapprochement, might convince American politicians to dismantle the five-decade economic embargo on the island," in the lead story for [ABC World News](#) (9/22, lead story, 2:35, Muir, 5.84M), Terry Moran said the Pope on the plane ride to the US said "he would not mention the US embargo on Cuba" while addressing Congress. [Reuters](#) (9/23) similarly notes the Pope said that although he hopes the US will lift the embargo, he will not raise the issue.

[Politico](#) (9/22, Kim, 942K) noted that the Buenos Aires-born Pope "has focused much of his papacy on liberalizing immigration policies and showing compassion for migrants," adding that religious leaders expect him "to promote that message during his speech to Congress on Thursday – a theme advocates hope will be a

subtle rebuke to the GOP, whose presidential primary has been characterized by a hardline tone and position toward immigration." [Roll Call](#) (9/22, Bowman, 113K) reports that federal contract workers "are hoping the pope's emphasis on economic inequality will strike a chord with members of Congress" and push them "to raise their wages and allow for union representation."

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Singer, 5.23M) reports that "the adults in Congress would like everybody to be on their best behavior" during the Pope's address, noting that Sen. Roger Wicker said, "We actually hope that we can show a little more decorum for the pope than we sometimes do at State of the Union addresses. ... It is our hope...that we can avoid the dueling ovations, the jack-in-the box standing for this or for that." Senate Minority Leader Reid "agreed that he hopes this won't happen Thursday," saying, "If there's applause during the speech, we can all applaud, but not the up-and-down stuff. I think that's not a dignified way to conduct ourselves."

Rubio: Pope's Comments On Economy Demonstrate "Fundamental Misunderstanding." On [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/22), Sen. Marco Rubio was shown explaining areas of disagreement with the Pope. Rubio said, "On moral issues he speaks with incredible authority and has done so consistently on the value of life, the sanctity of life, the importance of marriage and on the family." However, Rubio added that "on economic issues the Pope is a person and a head of state. ... I see in the Pope's comments a fundamental misunderstanding about the difference between free enterprise and corporatism."

Large-Scale Security Effort Surrounds Pope's Visit. Brian Todd reported on the security situation for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), saying the "massive event" is "the biggest security event we've seen in the United States in a long, long time." In an earlier segment on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Deborah Feyerick reported that while there is "no specific credible threat," when "you have somebody of the Pope's stature in town, there's an implied threat because it is such an attractive terror target for anyone who wanted to do something bad." Feyerick noted that the visit "has been designated" a "national security special event," meaning "extra resources have been thrown at this event."

Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News](#) (9/22, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) about the crowds expected to follow the Pope on his visit, noting that they will "rang[e] from large to enormous. 15,000 people at the White House. 80,000 watching the Pope ride through New York's Central Park. Up to one million people for Sunday mass in Philadelphia." David Muir noted in a separate [ABC World News](#) (9/22, story 3, 1:00, Muir, 5.84M) segment that "security [is] being beefed up in the three cities the Pope will visit."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Blitzer noted that the "unprecedented security surrounding" the visit "isn't just on the ground," but "also extends to US air space." Rene Marsh reported "there is a new airborne threat that's causing concern." Marsh said, "Drones and even a gyro copter have penetrated some of the most protected real estate in America." Security Analyst Don Aviv said, "This is the greatest threat because biological, chemical, even a small explosive device could be packed in these drones and dropped within feet of a protectee."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Sen. James Risch said the "primary security concern is the same things that we worry about every day. And that is the lone actor, the person who, as your reporter said, may have mental issues, wants to make a statement, doing something without any reason behind it." According to Risch, "ISIS is a threat" to the Pope "just as they are to other things in America. This shows you the mentality of these people that they would pick out someone like the Pope who is interested in peace and wanting to get along."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, story 9, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Bill Plante highlighted the Pope's travel methods. Former Swiss Guard member Andreas Widmer said, "The security for the Pope needs to optimize security while not hindering his ministry. If you don't let the Pope do his ministry, he's not the Pope anymore." Plante said the Pope's "popemobile" will be "a specially built Jeep Wrangler, open and unarmored," which "might keep security officials up at night, but not the Pope." The Pope said that while "anything could happen," at "my age I don't have much to lose." On [ABC World News](#) (9/22, story 9, 2:00, Muir, 5.84M), Muir also noted that the Pope will be traveling in a Jeep Wrangler. While the exact "configuration is not known, we do know those Jeep Wranglers are made in a factory in Toledo, Ohio, where more than 5,000 American workers make those Wranglers every day."

Pope Will Deliver Most US Speeches In Spanish. [USA Today](#) (9/23, Eversley, 5.23M) reports that according to the Vatican, the Pope "will deliver most of his speeches...in Spanish." Ein News quoted Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi as saying that while the Pope "has been practicing his English through the summer, he is more at ease speaking in his native language." Said Lombardi, "He feels more comfortable. ... The real reason is the ease of expression and that he will have to make less effort."

Administration Catholics Helped Obama Gain Support On Controversial Issues. The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that efforts by the White House to win “Catholic support on important elements of its agenda has often involved going around the church hierarchy,” and “to lead that effort it has often turned to Catholic members of the president’s senior staff,” including the Vice President and HHS Secretary Sebelius as well as “other prominent Catholics” in the Administration such as Chief of Staff McDonough and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, who have “developed strong bonds with the nuns and Catholic relief agencies on issues like immigration.” The connections, the Times adds, “have helped the administration to compensate, in part, for what has often been a contentious relationship with church elders.”

Native Americans Object To Canonization Of Serra. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Parsons, 4.07M) also reports that the Pope “will fuel a controversy on Wednesday when he canonizes Father Junipero Serra, an 18th century Franciscan missionary who established the California mission system that helped transform the West.” Serra’s canonization “has angered some Native Americans who point to the mission system’s use of floggings and imprisonment for those who tried to leave, and to the spread of deadly diseases that it wrought.” [McClatchy](#) (9/22, Bergengruen, 28K) says that while the Vatican “is holding Serra up as a founding father of the United States, a protective figure who defended the native tribes from the cruelty of Spanish colonizers,” Native Americans “say that declaring the founder of the mission system a saint is an outrage and an insult to their history.”

MCCONNELL: SENATE TO HOLD TEST VOTE ON CR STRIPPING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

FUNDING. [Reuters](#) (9/23, Cornwell) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Tuesday that the Senate will vote this week on a stopgap funding bill to prevent a government shutdown at the end of October. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/22, Spielman, 2.66M) reports McConnell said a test vote “on a measure to keep the government operating until Dec. 11 while stripping funds from Planned Parenthood for a year” will take place Thursday.

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Singer, 5.23M) says Democrats “are certain to object when the bill comes to a vote,” and “repeated their calls Tuesday for a ‘clean’ short-term spending bill that would simply extend the budget.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Mascaro, 4.07M) also says “the bill is expected to fail – blocked by a Democratic filibuster – because it would also cut funds to Planned Parenthood.” [Reuters](#) (9/23, Zengerle) reports Democrats blocked the FY 2016 defense spending bill Tuesday in a possible prelude to Thursday’s vote.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/23, Howell, 344K) reports McConnell said in response, “I know Democrats have already blocked virtually every bill to fund the government this year, but I’m asking them to allow the Senate to fund the government now.” [Politico](#) (9/23, Everett, Kim, 942K) reports Senate Majority Whip Comyn also commented, saying, “There’s going to be votes to defund Planned Parenthood. But I think, given the President’s opposition and Democrats’ opposition, at some point, I anticipate there will be a clean [continuing resolution]. But that’s not the end of the fight over late-term abortions and over Planned Parenthood.”

[Politico](#) (9/22, Everett, 942K) writes that McConnell “is on course to set a record in legislative futility,” on track to “have overseen the most rejected repeat attempts to end debate on bills of any majority leader” since at least 1983. [Roll Call](#) (9/22, Lesniewski, 113K) is among the other sources also reporting.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, 6.76M) says in an editorial that House Speaker Boehner must make sure the House GOP caucus does not block a continuing resolution, writing that “by demonstrating the impossibility of overcoming a Democratic filibuster on defunding Planned Parenthood, Mr. McConnell’s plan may help House holdouts see reason. If it does not, however, the speaker must guarantee continued government funding, even if it means passing a bill with support of Democrats.”

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (9/23, Jalonick) reports the Agriculture Department warned Tuesday “that it will stop providing benefits at the beginning of October if Congress does not pass legislation to keep government agencies open.”

CLINTON COMES OUT AGAINST KEYSTONE. On Tuesday, Hillary Clinton announced that she was opposed to the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline project. The coverage tended to focus on the fact that she had long avoided taking a stand on the controversial issue. [USA Today](#) (9/23, Przybyla, 5.23M) reports that Clinton said at a town hall meeting in Des Moines, “I thought this would be decided by now, but it hasn’t been decided, and I feel now I’ve got a responsibility” to voters. According to [Reuters](#) (9/22), Clinton added, “I think it is imperative that we look at the Keystone pipeline as what I believe is the distraction from the important work we have to do to combat climate change. Therefore, I oppose it.”

The [AP](#) (9/23, Thomas, Lucey) reports that Clinton had “previously said she shouldn’t take a position on the issue, saying she didn’t want to interfere with the Obama administration’s deliberations,” but she had “expressed impatience in recent weeks over the drawn-out pipeline decision.” [Politico](#) (9/22, Kami, 942K) says that Clinton’s “silence” on the project had “become a point of contention among Democrats and environmentalists.” Her “refusal” to take a position “has been criticized from both sides as a lack of leadership on an important issue to the party’s grassroots,” and Sen. Bernie Sanders had “criticized” her stand. The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Mufson, 6.76M) says that Clinton “has always struggled to rouse sustained enthusiasm from the far left of her party. Keystone became a symbol for some liberal leaders of Clinton’s perceived distance from their priorities.” The [Washington Times](#) (9/23, Miller, 344K) reports that the issue “forced” Clinton “to choose between two powerful factions within the Democratic Party, environmentalists who oppose the project and labor unions who support it.”

On [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/22), Ed Henry reported that Clinton “was on the fence” about taking a position about the Keystone Pipeline “because she didn’t want to interfere with the White House decision” as a former Secretary of State, but she is now “coming out against Keystone” in an “effort to win the left.” David Muir noted on [ABC World News](#) (9/22, story 5, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) that Clinton “says the project will not help in the fight against climate change.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 5, 1:55, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that Clinton is “wading into a hot button issue” by “announcing her opposition to the Keystone pipeline.” Meet the Press moderator Chuck Todd said that “as secretary of state, it was widely assumed she was okay with approving the pipeline.”

Earnest: State Department Considering Whether Keystone Is In “National Interest.” On the [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22), Wolf Blitzer noted that Hillary Clinton “came out against the Keystone oil pipeline” and asked White House spokesman Josh Earnest if President Obama is “going to agree with her because he’s still on the fence.” Earnest said there is an “ongoing process” at the State Department as officials “consider whether the construction is in the national interest.” Earnest added, that “once the State Department has put forward a recommendation, the President will consider it, and he’ll make a decision. But right now the policy process rests at the State Department.”

In Blow To Clinton, SEIU, AFSCME Delay Endorsement In Democratic Race. [Politico](#) (9/22, Kami, 942K) says that the SEIU and AFSCME have “decided to delay endorsements in the presidential race – a move labor insiders attribute in part to the uncertainty Vice President Joe Biden’s potential run has inserted into the Democratic primary.” The decisions are a “setback” for Clinton, who has been “courting the labor giants” in order to “lock down” their support early.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***“The Republican Attack On Muslims.”*** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) criticizes Ben Carson over his remarks about Muslims, and adds that the White House hopefuls doesn’t “represent some minor fringe element in the” GOP. The Times adds that the controversy “reflects a pernicious habit among the leaders of the” GOP “to play with fire by pandering to an angry, disaffected and heavily white base by demonizing selected minorities. Muslims are just the current target.”

“Handcuffed While Pregnant.” The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorializes, “Being a prisoner entails daily indignities, some of which are unavoidable. But for sheer cruelty and pointless degradation, it is hard to top the shackling of women who are pregnant, in labor or caring for their newborns,” a practice that “has never made any sense” that nonetheless “is perfectly legal in 28 states.”

“What Was Volkswagen Thinking?” The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorializes, “It is incredible that anyone at Volkswagen thought the company could get away with it. Did the engineers and executives who came up with that bit of cheating software ever consider the enormous risk they were taking?” Did they think it was “worth the inestimable damage to their customers, to the environment, to their shareholders and to their venerable brand to squeeze a bit of illicit power out of their engines? Yet that’s exactly what they did.”

WASHINGTON POST. ***“John Boehner Must Rein In The GOP Caucus.”*** The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, 6.76M) says in an editorial that House Speaker Boehner must make sure the House GOP caucus does not block a continuing resolution, writing that “by demonstrating the impossibility of overcoming a Democratic filibuster on defunding Planned Parenthood, Mr. McConnell’s plan may help House holdouts see reason. If it does not,

however, the speaker must guarantee continued government funding, even if it means passing a bill with support of Democrats.”

“**California’s Landmark Right-To-Die Bill.**” The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, 6.76M) says in an editorial that California Gov. Jerry Brown should sign a bill passed by the legislature earlier this month “that would give terminally ill adults the option to request medication to end their lives.” The measure “is modeled after Oregon’s law, which has been used sparingly and responsibly since 1997.”

“**Robert E. Simon Jr.’s Suburban Success Story.**” A [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Board, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “**The Assault On Drug Innovation.**” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says that Hillary Clinton’s plan to cut prescription drug costs is out of touch with industry realities, and would do significant harm to new drug innovation.

“**City Of Big Taxes.**” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says in an editorial that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s proposed tax hike shows the burden government pensions put on large cities over time.

“**Iran’s Nuclear Selfies.**” An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says that while the IAEA confirmed Monday that Iran has provided samples it collected from the Parchin military site, Director Yukiya Amano must take Iran’s word that the samples provide a full picture of Iran’s previous nuclear activity. The Journal argues that the arrangement is dangerous because it will set a precedent for future inspections of contested military sites.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- [MWD Aims To Turn Sewage Into Beverage](#)
- [LA Leaders To Declare Homeless Emergency](#)
- [In A Heartbeat, VW Suffers Big Hits Its Value Integrity](#)
- [A Papal Audience](#)
- [US Saw Surge Of Asian Migrants Last Year](#)

Wall Street Journal:

- [Volkswagen Scandal Pressures CEO](#)
- [Clash Over Relocating Migrants Widens EU Rift](#)
- [Conservative Catholics Greet Pope With Unease](#)
- [Struggles In China Push Cisco To Strike Deal](#)

New York Times:

- [Plan On Migrants Strains The Limits Of Europe’s Unity](#)
- [Syrian Refugees Settle Into Lives Far From West](#)
- [Diesel Scandal At VW Spreads To Core Market](#)
- [Los Angeles Declares A Homeless Emergency](#)
- [Race And Class Collide In A Plan For Two Schools](#)
- [The Plot Twist: E-Book Sales Slip, And Print Is Far From Dead](#)

Washington Post:

- [For Pope Francis, A “New Encounter”](#)
- [EU Approves Migrant Action](#)
- [11 Million Volkswagens Have Cheating Software](#)
- [What’s In A Name? For Jeb Bush, A Legacy And A Liability.](#)
- [State Dept. Account Of Email Request Differs From Clinton’s](#)

Financial Times:

- [China Crisis? What Crisis? Says Osborne](#)
- [VW Scandal Sparks Sector Turmoil](#)
- [Google Charges Marketers For Ads On YouTube Even When Viewed By Robots](#)

Washington Times:

[Afghan Abuse Led Boy To Kill Suit Claims](#)
[State Urged To Put More Inspectors On Clinton Email Case](#)
[Pope Visits US Amid Legal Tests Of Religious Freedom](#)
[Price Of Admission My Shrink GOP Field](#)
[Senate Sets Up Showdown Over Abortion Funds](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Pope Francis-US Visit; Pope Francis US Visit-Security Measures; Pope Francis US Visit-Police; 2016 Politics-Ben Carson Comments; Hillary Clinton-Keystone Pipeline; Volkswagen-Falsified Test Results; Kentucky County Clerk-Interview; Pharmaceutical Company-Drug Price Controversy; Pope Francis Visit-Travel.
CBS: Pope Francis-US Visit; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Carly Fiorina; Volkswagen-Falsified Test Results; US Emission Standards; Europe Migrant Crisis; Pharmaceutical Company-Drug Price Controversy; Pope Francis-Public Opinion; Pope Francis Visit-Travel.
NBC: Pope Francis-US Visit; Pope Francis US Visit-Message; Pharmaceutical Company-Drug Price Controversy; Volkswagen-Falsified Test Results; Hillary Clinton-Keystone Pipeline; 2016 Politics-Campaign Trail; Healthcare-Misdiagnoses; Chinese President-US Visit; Pope Francis US Visit-Greeting.

Network TV At A Glance:

Pope Francis-US Visit – 22 minutes, 10 seconds
2016 Politics – 7 minutes, 55 seconds
Pharmaceutical Company-Drug Price Controversy – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
Volkswagen-Falsified Test Results – 5 minutes, 25 seconds
Hillary Clinton- Keystone Pipeline – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Pope Francis-US Visit; Chinese President-US Visit; Kentucky County Clerk-Interview; Justice Scalia-Rhodes College Speech.
CBS: Pope Francis-US Visit; Chinese President-US Visit; Senate-Abortion Bill; Europe Migrant Crisis; Gas Prices.
FOX: Pope Francis-US Visit; Chinese President-US Visit; Hillary Clinton-Keystone Pipeline; Ben Cauley Obit; Petraeus-Senate Hearing.
NPR: Pope Francis-US Visit; Hillary Clinton-Keystone Pipeline; Bush-Multiculturalism Comments; Chinese President-US Visit; Los Angeles-Homeless Report; Los Angeles-Happy Birthday Song Copyright Ruling; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Meets Pope Francis at the White House continuing the dialogue on their shared values and commitments on issues including caring for the marginalized and the poor, advancing economic opportunity for all, serving as good stewards of the environment, protecting religious minorities and promoting religious freedom around the world, and welcoming and integrating immigrants and refugees into our communities.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Meets Pope Francis at the White House.

US Senate: 4 p.m. Wildfire Legislation and Funding Press call – Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT), Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), and Representative Bruce Westerman (R-AR) will hold a press call to discuss catastrophic wildfire legislation and the Administration's recent request to Congress for wildfire suppression funding. Dial in: 1-888-917-8050. Participant Passcode: WILDFIRE. RSVP for this call, please contact Julia Slingsby at julia.slingsby@mail.house.gov Location: Press call

11 a.m. Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on agency regulatory guidance – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Use of Agency Regulatory Guidance', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Michelle Sager; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy Mary Beth Maxwell; and Acting Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development Amy McIntosh Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg,

Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

US House: 12 p.m. Hold Pen and Pad Briefing – Democratic Whip Hoyer holds regular pen and pad briefing for reporters Location: H-144 in the US Capitol www.hoyer-group.com

4 p.m. Wildfire Legislation and Funding Press call – Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT), Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), and Representative Bruce Westerman (R-AR) will hold a press call to discuss catastrophic wildfire legislation and the Administration's recent request to Congress for wildfire suppression funding. Dial in: 1-888-917-8050. Participant Passcode: WILDFIRE. RSVP for this call, please contact Julia Slingsby at julia.slingsby@mail.house.gov

House of Representatives on recess from 18 Sep – 24 Sep

Other: WTO Director-General Azevedo visits Washington, DC – World Trade Organization Director-General Roberto Azevedo visits Washington, DC, to hold bilateral meetings in Congress and with senior govt representatives. He will speak tomorrow at the Peterson Institute, before attending the United Nations Summit on global development in New York Friday Location: Washington, DC <http://www.wto.org> <https://twitter.com/WTO>

MeriTalk annual Cyber Security Brainstorm event – MeriTalk annual Cyber Security Brainstorm event. Speakers incl FBI Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services Branch official Joseph Demarest, Jr., Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf, and C2 Labs founder and CEO Anil Karmel Location: Knight Conference Center, Newseum, Washington, DC www.meritalk.com <https://twitter.com/MeriTalk>

Assistant Secretary of State Biswal meets Afghanistan Ambassador to India – Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Biswal agenda incl meeting Afghanistan Ambassador to India Amb. Shaida Mohammad Abdali Location: State Department, Washington, DC www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course, the big story is that Pope Francis arrived in Washington, DC today. I saw that President Obama actually picked him up at the airport. When asked how the Pope will get back to the airport, Obama was like, 'Uber.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right, President Obama picked up Pope Francis at the airport. Because what better way to alleviate the traffic the Pope is about to cause than sending out a presidential motorcade."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that top congressional leaders sent a statement to the House and Senate with guidelines for Pope Francis' visit, including a request to not shake his hand. Apparently they're worried that if politicians touch the Pope they'll burst into flames."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that 128 celebrities posted a letter to Bernie Sanders's campaign website giving him their endorsement. And you can tell by the list that many of these endorsements are because Bernie is pro-weed. You have Cheech and Chong."

Seth Meyers: "Dr. Ben Carson defended his comments about Muslims being unfit for the presidency, and posted on Facebook that he believes Sharia law is the central tenet of Islam. While most people on Facebook believe Sharia law is a show about a black lady judge."

Seth Meyers: "Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker dropped out of the presidential race last night. And in related news, a tree fell in a forest."

Conan O'Brien: "A company in Japan has released a robot that's able to simulate some emotion. Either that or Hillary Clinton just made a surprise visit to Japan."

Stephen Colbert: "Donald Trump is here. Everybody loves him. Finally, a place on TV to hear about Donald Trump! He is the GOP front-runner. Who knows? One day I might be able to tell my grandkid I interviewed the last President of the United States."

Stephen Colbert: "And the frontrunner, Donald Trump, is my guest tonight. I certainly hope we are shooting this show in Imax so we can capture his entire head on camera."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump is still leading, even after getting roughed up at last week's CNN debate. Did you watch it? It was super fun to watch. I came up with a drinking game. I turned on the debate, and I drank."

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Mendoza, Felipe <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>

UPDATE: External Statements - Basin & Range, Berryessa & Waco Mammoth

1 message

John Blair <John_Blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov

Fri, Jul 10, 2015 at 3:31 PM

Team DOI: here is our afternoon update of external statements for the three monuments designated today. I've attached them as a word document and included them in the body of this email below. The statements added since our earlier compilation are noted with "(NEW)."

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! jb

Basin and Range, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth National Monument Statements

Collective Statements

Natural Resources Defense Council (NEW)

WASHINGTON (July 10, 2015) – The three national monuments created today by President Obama will protect some of America's most biodiverse mountain ecosystems, wild tracts of desert and nationally significant fossil beds.

The following is a statement by Sharon Buccino, director of the Land and Wildlife Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council:

"This is a gift to all Americans. By following through on his promise to make use of his executive powers to protect more public lands, President Obama also has burnished his conservation legacy. It's heartening to know that our children and all future generations will have the opportunity to learn and draw inspiration from their visits to these beautiful, uniquely American places."

http://www.nrdc.org/media/2015/150710.asp?utm_source=tw&utm_medium=tweet&utm_campaign=socialmedia

U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva, Arizona

Washington, D.C. – Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva today applauded President Obama for establishing three new national monuments under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Obama announced the establishment of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, Mammoth Park National Monument in Texas and the Basin and

Range National Monument in Nevada.

"I applaud President Obama for upholding our great American tradition of conservation and for continuing to make wise use of the Antiquities Act," Grijalva said. "We have a moral responsibility to conserve and protect vital habitat, natural scenery and historical treasures, and President Obama has met that responsibility again today. The law has proven its worth time and time again, and today's announcements show why it continues to be one of our country's most important conservation tools."

U.S. Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah

"President Obama has shown complete disdain for Congress and the people of Nevada, California, and Texas. This surreptitious land grab reveals that the Obama Administration will stop at nothing to lock up more and more land, with the stroke of a pen. I condemn this shameful power move which makes states and citizens fearful that the federal government can invade at any time to seize more lands like bandits in the night," said Chairman Bishop.

"The White House has made a mess out of the democratic process – which my Committee will now have to try and rectify. How this decree impacts people and their livelihoods – including public safety, water rights, economic development, recreation, and grazing – should be handled by Congress before a designation, not after the fact. Once again, the Obama Administration has put politics above people. Now, Congress is left to fix the mess made by the White House."

Margie Alt, Executive Director of Environment America

WASHINGTON, DC—Three of the nation's spectacular natural and archeological wonders gain permanent protection today, as President Barack Obama creates Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas, Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California.

The announcement, backed heavily by local businesses and residents and tourists from around the country, comes two days after the U.S. House narrowly voted to block monument designations in California, Nevada and eight other states.

"Today the president continues his commitment to a uniquely American idea -- that our natural wonders should be protected for the benefit of all, not sacrificed for the short-term gain of a few," said Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America. "Some of our nation's most marvelous landscapes can now be enjoyed today and for generations to come."

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region, less than 100 miles from Sacramento and the Bay Area, is home to wintering bald eagles and a host of other wildlife, and is often described as an "outdoor wonderland," with opportunities for hiking, camping, birdwatching, hunting, and horseback riding. In August, Environment California, a member of the Environment America federation, delivered a letter from more than 100 area businesses to Obama administration officials in support of the monument designation.

"What a great way to start the weekend for anyone who hikes, rides horses, or loves to visit this scenic treasure," said Dan Jacobson, state director of Environment California. "Californians, local area businesses, and everyone who enjoys our great outdoors have real reason to celebrate today."

"For more than 100 years, presidents starting with Teddy Roosevelt have protected our country's most prized natural areas as national monuments," said Alt. "For the 19th time since taking office, today President Obama fulfills that proud American tradition."

Gene Karpinski, President of League of Conservation Voters

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“By creating these three new national monuments, President Obama is continuing his commitment to preserving America’s treasured places and cementing his well-deserved place in conservation history. The President acted in response to the overwhelming support expressed by local communities and stakeholders across the country for protecting these places of extraordinary environmental, historic, and scientific value. We celebrate America’s three newest monuments alongside the nearby communities that will see a boost to their tourism economies and quality of life.”

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Mike Matz, Director of PEW’s U.S. Public Lands Program

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WASHINGTON—The Pew Charitable Trusts applauds President Barack Obama’s plan to proclaim three new national monuments: Basin and Range National Monument, which will cover about 704,000 acres in Nevada, 110 miles north of Las Vegas; Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, encompassing 330,780 acres, less than 100 miles from both the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas; and the Waco Mammoth archeological site in West Texas. The Nevada monument is larger than any other land monument the president has designated to date.

Mike Matz, director of Pew’s U.S. public lands program, released the following statement:

“President Obama’s plan to proclaim new national monuments in Nevada, California, and Texas speaks volumes about the power of local citizens who stand up to protect our public lands. We applaud his continued and thoughtful use of the Antiquities Act to set aside remarkable American landscapes and historic areas.

“Basin and Range National Monument will preserve a region rich in historic, cultural, and natural resources—a treasure for Nevadans and for all of us. This designation will safeguard irreplaceable Native American rock art, preserve wildlife habitat, and protect rare and sensitive plants.

“President Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, along with Senator Harry Reid and Representative Dina Titus, closely consulted with residents, business owners, community and tourism leaders, and archaeologists to ensure that this area will be conserved for the benefit of generations to come.

“The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is the crown jewel of Northern California’s wild Inner Coast Range. An intact ecological treasure located less than 100 miles from the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas, it is accessible to millions of Californians. Visitors enjoy whitewater rafting on the wild and scenic Cache Creek, hiking in the national forest, fishing in Lake Berryessa, camping, hunting, and horseback riding.

“Stretching from Putah Creek over 100 miles to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest, it is one of the most biologically diverse regions in California. For years, members of the community worked together on a plan to preserve this special place for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. Yet legislative proposals to protect the region failed to advance in the past two Congresses, despite the support of farmers, ranchers, local and national recreation and conservation organizations, and numerous counties.

“Now, thanks to President Obama and the efforts of Representative Mike Thompson, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and other current and former members of the California congressional delegation, Berryessa Snow Mountain will become a national monument. This designation will ensure continued recreational opportunities, support the local economy, and safeguard the region’s beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and waters—including important sources of drinking water and irrigation for nearby communities.

“In Texas, city officials and local leaders in Waco have been working with legislators for the past decade to make the Waco Mammoth Site part of the National Park System. Discovered by fossil hunters in 1978, the site preserves the story of a herd of Columbian mammoths believed to have been trapped by a flash flood approximately 68,000 years ago. President Obama’s proclamation will bring this important archeological resource into the park system as a national monument.

“From coast to coast, communities are working to preserve natural, historic, and scenic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations. America’s next national monuments, Basin and Range, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth, are outstanding local—and national—success stories.”

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en>

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Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

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"The Sierra Club applauds President Obama's historic and unprecedented actions today. By utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Berryessa Snow Mountain, Basin and Range, and Waco Mammoth, he has continued to add to our nation's outdoor legacy.

"By designating these new monuments, President Obama has ensured that these beautiful, historic landscapes will continue to benefit local communities for generations to come.

"It's really welcoming to see President Obama once again reward the efforts of the hundreds of people over the years who have given their passion, time, and toil to protecting our public lands."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/07/basin-and-range-berryessa-snow-mountain-and-waco-mammoth-become-nation-s-next>

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Jamie Williams, President of The Wilderness Society

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The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today from President Jamie Williams regarding the Obama Administration's intent to designate three new national monuments in California, Nevada, and Texas.

"In the absence of action from the House and Senate to move legislation forward, President Obama's proclamations will protect these stunning areas for many years to come, enabling more Americans to experience their natural and cultural wonders and providing a boost to local economies," said Williams.

"Bedrock conservation laws like the Antiquities Act help American communities build strong ties to our shared public lands and this law should be vigorously defended from current attempts to weaken it."

<https://wilderness.org/press-release/statement-wilderness-society-creation-three-new-national-monuments>

Basin and Range National Monument

U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Nevada (NEW)

"I love Nevada, and the Nevada that I know and love is the quiet, starkly beautiful desert. Today's designation to protect over 700,000 acres of this unique Nevada desert, known as Basin and Range, is historic.

"The new Basin and Range National Monument is an area where the Mojave Desert meets the Great Basin

and Joshua trees and cactus give way to a sea of sagebrush. It is home to desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope. The land provided food and shelter for ancient people and we can still see the history of those people today in the incredible rock art panels. This area is a time capsule of our pioneering western history, from early explorers to mining to the ranching that still exists today. In its center is City, a grand modern art sculpture by world renowned artist Michael Heizer. It is a peaceful place. To me, it feels like home.

“President Obama will be remembered for many accomplishments, but I am confident this action today will be a defining legacy for him. I have nothing but admiration for President Obama. I appreciate more than I can put into words what he has done today to preserve the beauty of the Nevada desert for our grandchildren, their grandchildren, and generations to come. He has used his authority under the Antiquities Act to do great things all over the country and he’s not done yet. There are vast landscapes and historic treasures from Idaho to California to Oregon that have languished in Congress. I hope that the President will continue to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect these places.

“As a little boy growing up in Searchlight, my family didn’t travel or go on vacations. But we were able to visit Fort Piute Springs, about fifteen miles away from my home. To me it was a supernatural place, it was my Disneyland. It had a Calvary fort, it had gushing ponds of water, it had lily pads and cattails – it was magic. Decades later I went back to visit only to find it in ruins. I thought it was profoundly unfair that little boys and girls wouldn’t be able to experience the thrill of Piute Springs like I had. I became determined that someday I would preserve Piute Springs and places like it. I have worked hard to do that.

“Everything I’ve done for the environment is based on my experience as a little boy going to Piute Springs. We have an obligation to preserve these precious lands for future generations. I am so happy with the Basin and Range National Monument designation. Today we accomplished something that will last for generations.”

http://www.reid.senate.gov/press_releases/2015-07-10-reid-statement-on-president-obamas-basin-and-range-monument-designation

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval (NEW)

Governor Brian Sandoval issued the following statement today on President Obama’s Basin and Range Monument Designation.

“Nevadans and our federal delegation have worked together for generations to conserve, protect, and maintain our precious natural resources. Where the federal government asserts ultimate jurisdiction, Nevada has been, and continues to be, a willing partner with federal agencies and administrative bodies. The Basin and Range Monument designation, however, bypassed Congress on a public lands issue in which Nevada and our entire delegation should have had a primary role in working collectively to build consensus as we have done successfully in the past,” said Governor Brian Sandoval. “While we all share a common goal of preserving our lands for the use and enjoyment of generations to come, I would have preferred a more collaborative process when making such an important designation. I firmly believe our local ranchers, environmentalists, and community stakeholders are the best experts in ensuring Nevada’s lands are preserved, protected and accessible.”

<http://gov.nv.gov/News-and-Media/Press/2015/Sandoval-Statement-on-Basin-and-Range-Monument-Designation/>

New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NEW)

New Mexico sportsmen applaud President Obama’s decision to protect the public lands of Basin and Range in

central Nevada, as the nation’s newest national monument. We especially appreciate that the area will be permanently protected, ensuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to hunt there in the future, too.

The new monument will protect 704,000 acres in Nye and Lincoln counties in central Nevada. The area has been long prized by conservationists and championed by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., as containing unspoiled landscape, habitat for sensitive animal and plant species and Native American artifacts and petroglyphs.

It also provides hunting and outdoor opportunities to the region – traditions that have existed for generations and that will continue to exist, despite claims to the contrary.

We are glad to hear that sportsmen in Nevada will retain access to in the Basin and Range region, just as New Mexico sportsmen did when the Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monuments were protected.

With this designation, this incredible landscape will never be closed, divided, or sold. Monument status means permanent protection for wildlife habitat and public access.

U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus, Nevada

Washington, D.C. – Today Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada’s First District released the following statement regarding the designation of Basin & Range National Monument, by President Obama:

“The Basin and Range National Monument stands as a showcase of Nevada’s wondrous desert habitat,” said Congresswoman Titus. “Home to flora and fauna native only to our state, this monument preserves and protects the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources of this significant region for generations to come. I am proud to stand with President Obama, Senator Reid, and all the Nevadans who have advocated for establishing this lasting symbol of the region’s natural beauty and rich history.”

Congresswoman Titus has long advocated for conservation of Nevada’s open spaces and is the sponsor of H.R. 857, the Garden Valley Withdrawal Act to protect this region for generations.

U.S. Senator Dean Heller, Nevada

“The Nevada Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan manner on conservation and public lands issues through the legislative process. With the stroke of a pen, President Obama has bypassed Congress and unilaterally restricted the use of over 700,000 acres of Nevada’s public land. I have always been forthright with my position that any federal action to change access on our public lands should be discussed in an open and transparent process incorporating the input and support from local communities,” said Senator Dean Heller

<http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=a5453905-2944-418f-908f-3b678690aa72>

U.S. Congressman Joe Heck, Nevada

"President Obama often says 'we are stronger as a nation when we work together.' Apparently that rule does not apply to public lands issues when it involves his political allies. The Basin and Range Monument designation goes well beyond the intention of the Antiquities Act which limits parcels reserved by the President to the 'smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.' It is beyond belief that an area larger than the state of Rhode Island is the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of this land.

"The Nevada delegation has a tradition of working together to build consensus on lands bills important to our state; consider the Tule Springs legislation or my own Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act. Those efforts were the result of years of work in Nevada and in Congress and resulted in laws that enjoy wide public support. Yet the President, with the stroke of a pen, has bypassed Congress yet again and ignored any input from Nevadans on this designation. If we are stronger when we work together, then let's actually work together."

<https://heck.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-joe-heck-statement-president-obamas-basin-and-range-monument>

Richard Bryan, Former U.S. Senator and former Nevada Governor

"As a former Senator, I am proud to have sponsored the Black Rock National Conservation Area legislation. Working closely with Senator Reid I supported the establishment of a National Conservation Area at Red Rock and a National Recreation Area at Mount Charleston.

For more than a decade Nevadans have discussed how to protect the Garden and Coal Valleys because tourism and recreation play an important part of our economy. We now have that protection. I want to thank Senator Harry Reid, Congresswoman Titus, Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama for protecting this Nevada treasure."

Kelvin Atkinson, State Senator, member of the Natural Resources committee

"I was a staunch supporter of keeping public lands in public hands this past legislative session and I am proud to add my voice in supporting Nevada's newest National Monument, Basin and Range. This will add tremendous benefits to our state's economy and I applaud Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus for their tireless work on ensuring Nevada's landscapes are protected. I also thank President Obama for using his constitutional authority to protect this land."

Statements made prior to the announcement

Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman

"I consider Nevada's public lands to be a national treasure. Basin and Range is a unique opportunity where we are combining modern art with prehistoric art. I recognize the importance of protecting this place for current and future generations and wholeheartedly support any efforts to do so."

Sig Rogich, President of The Rogich Communications Group

"Nevada is indeed fortunate, if not blessed, to be the home of Michael Heizer's City, a world-class work of art in an area that is surrounded with unparalleled beauty and unspoiled open spaces filled with thousands of archeological sites. As I did in my days in the White House as an Assistant to President George H. W. Bush, I fully support preservation of the surrounding Basin and Range landscape. This national monument designation is

not only be great for our state and our economy today, but for generations to come.”

Rayette Martin, Executive Director, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

“The Basin and Range National Monument has a high density of important cultural sites which is why Nevadans for Cultural Preservation support the designation. Through preserving this resource-rich region, people from around country will be able to continue to access and experience Nevada’s history within the landscape it was created. These areas offer invaluable opportunities for residents, visitors and future generations to learn about Nevada.”

Chris Mero, Chairman, Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

“Protecting Basin & Range preserves big, intact habitat for elk, sage-grouse, and other important wildlife for sportsmen, Nevadans and all Americans. A National Monument gets the job done.”

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County Nevada

“As superintendent to the nation’s fifth-largest school system, I am aware of how important exposure to history, art and the outdoors is for our students. Early archeological sites as well as globally-recognized contemporary art are inextricably linked to the Basin and Range National Monument. These are things that cannot be experienced within a museum. Conserving our irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage benefits schoolchildren and visitors, bringing a tremendous sense of pride to our state for both current and future generations.”

Mauricia Baca, Executive Director of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation

“This new national monument offers a slew of marvelous outdoor recreation activities – just two hours from Vegas. The President, Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus have protected Nevada’s history and heritage for residents and tourists alike to explore.”

Thomas Tait, Chair of the Board of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation and former Secretary of Tourism for Nevada for the Nevada Commission on Tourism

“We are pleased that increased attention is being focused on encouraging tourism on Nevada’s public lands. The future of Las Vegas is vested in the entire experience a visitor finds here. This new National Monument will be attractive to environmentally-conscious international customers while also enhancing the quality of life for Southern Nevada residents.”

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

“Today, we extend our support for the Basin and Range area to also receive that same protection for its cultural, historical, and environmental significance. In addition to the tourism benefits, granting this protection will also ensure that local residents will have the opportunity to experience the recreation, history, and cultural elements of these outdoor attractions. Eco-tourism is a growing segment in the travel community

– particularly among international travelers to Las Vegas. Overseas visitors are attracted to the Southwest landscape and the cowboy culture that is represented here. Maintaining these protected areas will help persuade international visitors to make Southern Nevada their main hub for their visit to the Southwestern United States, continuing to boost our economy.”

Tom Skancke, President, Las Vegas global economic alliance (LVGEA)

“Southern Nevada has a great tradition of preserving its surrounding natural and cultural environs for recreation and future generations. These preserved areas help to define who we are as Southern Nevadans and give us a sense of community pride, but they also help drive our economy. The designation of the Basin and Range will help drive more tourists to rural Nevada and boost the southern Nevada regional economy. ”

Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

“Designating the Basin and Range National Monument will achieve two remarkable outcomes—a world-class artwork would endure into the future as it was envisioned, surrounded by sublimely beautiful open country; and a majestic Western American landscape would remain unspoiled for future generations.”

Melissa Peterson, Board Chair of the Las Vegas Arts Council

“The West’s wide-open, protected landscapes set America apart from the rest of the world, and define who we are as Nevadans. Basin and Range brings together geology, archaeology, history and art. What better gift to give our children than the permanent protection of this area?”

Elaine Wynn

“The significance of the Basin and Range area and *City* by Michael Heizer cannot be understated. This will change the face of Nevada; it will create a whole new kind of tourism to our state. Nevada is growing up and we should take steps necessary to capture this unique place for now and for generations to come. I’m proud to be an original champion of protecting Basin and Range.”

Pete Ernaut, R&R Partners

“Michael Heizer could have chosen potentially any landscape, but he chose Nevada for the Western spirit we represent. He specifically chose Garden Valley for its remote location, unspoiled valleys, and its naturally available materials. The Worthington Mountains, Golden Gate Range, and Mount Irish provide the perfect scenic backdrop for *City*. These mountain ranges include wilderness areas and incredible opportunities for recreation. Together, they create a place that is uniquely Nevadan, but belongs now, to the world.”

Michael Brown, Barrick Mining

“Barrick has a long history in Nevada, now employing more than 4,000 and leading the state in gold production. Our employees and their families work and live throughout Nevada and they place great value in the natural and cultural features of the lands they call home. As the Executive Director, I support the permanent preservation of the lands surrounding *City*.”

Jenna Morton, Morton Group

“As the daughter of an archaeologist, I am all too aware of the challenge of reconstructing the story of our forbears from shards. Southern Nevada public lands are the legacy we will leave our children—intact. Basin

and Range is unique in cultural resources and landscapes and deserves permanent preservation for us, for all of our children, and for their children.”

Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of Conservation Lands Foundation

“At a time when America’s open spaces are rapidly disappearing, it is encouraging to see President Obama set aside some of Nevada’s most scenic mountains and valleys as the Basin and Range National Monument. This area is like no place else on earth. With its unspoiled vistas, petroglyphs, and wildlife habitat, Basin and Range National Monument is an ideal addition to our National Conservation Lands.”

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Bill Dodd, California State Assemblymember

"The designation of this unique area as a national monument will help preserve the region's natural splendor for future generations. The national monument will provide continued recreational opportunities and will bring enhanced visitation. This is a great example of how we can protect our environment and support our local economy."

Anthony Farrington, Lake County Supervisor

“The Berryessa-Snow Mountain region provides easily-accessible opportunities for those living in Sacramento and the Bay Area to come up for a weekend and enjoy the recreation that this area has to offer. The benefits of such protection will extend far beyond the land itself to the surrounding areas, bringing new visitors to our communities as they take advantage of our recreational opportunities.”

Cecilia Aguiar-Currey, Winters Mayor

“The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is an enormous victory for our region. This area is often referred to as our “wild backyard,” and I am delighted that these lands are now protected permanently. Another benefit to protecting this amazing landscape is increased visibility, which will be advantageous to our local economies. This designation will encourage more visitation. Those passing through to these lands are likely to stop for a bite to eat, and some might want to stay an extra day to take in the scenery and enjoy the services and amenities offered by our local communities.”

Don Amador, Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition

“I am proud to support the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument because it will forever safeguard the trails and recreational opportunities that so many people, including myself, enjoy. Congressman Thompson worked hard to give all stakeholders a place at the table by forging partnerships, listening to community concerns, and making sure everyone’s input was included in the legislation leading up to this designation. I appreciate President Obama listening to our community and taking action to protect this spectacular place.”

Reno Franklin, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe and former Chair of National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation

Officers

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument brings with it the opportunity to forever protect thousands of the most beautiful lands that California has to offer. The rich history, rare natural resources and unique cultural landscape are a treasure that must be protected for future generations to enjoy. The administration needs to champion more collaborative preservation projects like this. Ones where there is a group effort of tribal communities, local communities, environmental groups, elected state and federal officials and local, state and federal agencies that all support the shared group vision of this National Monument."

-
John Pickerel, Owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse

"As a local business owner, I am thrilled to see President Obama take action to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. It will help our local economy and give local businesses more opportunities to thrive. Protecting these lands safeguards the region's natural resources and wildlife habitat and will enhance recreational opportunities for everyone. It will encourage tourism particularly along scenic Highway 128 from Winters to Napa and create a desirable place for people to live and work."

Craig McNamara, Walnut Farmer & Land Owner

"As a farmer, my livelihood depends on land and water. Without either, I'm out of business, which is why it is especially important to me to do all I can to conserve. Healthy landscapes and clean water is part of what makes Northern California such a special place to live and work, which is why I support the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument."

Linda Reiff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Napa Valley Vintners

"Napa Valley Vintners understand that water is the lifeblood of any agricultural community. Without protected sources of clean water, particularly given the current scarcity in California, agriculture becomes untenable. This is why protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument is so important to those who depend on the waters this designation will protect."

Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited

"TU members and California sportsmen are proud to have played a role in protecting this California crown jewel, and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations in the many streams and lakes that support outstanding fishing for trout and bass," said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. "Thank you, President Obama for protecting this amazing landscape, and ensuring that future generations of sportsmen will have access to clean water and intact habitat that support excellent fishing and hunting opportunities."

Sara Husby, Executive Director, Tuleyome

"We are ecstatic that President Obama has recognized the importance of protecting these special lands," said Sara Husby, Executive Director for Tuleyome - the regional conservation organization that spearheaded the protection efforts. "Together

with our congressional champions and the many, many supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region we got this done. I am overjoyed."

Waco Mammoth National Monument

Former First Lady Laura Bush (NEW)

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"Today is a special day for Texas! President Bush and I are thrilled that the Waco Mammoth Site is America's newest national monument. I applaud President Obama, the City of Waco, Baylor University, and now the National Park Service, who worked to develop, preserve, and champion the Waco Mammoth Site," said former First Lady Laura Bush. "The Waco Mammoth Site takes visitors back in time nearly 65,000 years, and reminds us of our country's connection to the history of our planet. As we approach the Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, this is a great time to celebrate our nation's parks."our country's connection to the natural history of our planet. As we approach the Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, this is a great way to celebrate our national parks and kick off a second century of stewardship."

Suzanne Dixon, Senior Director, Regional Director of NPCA


-
"We are grateful that President Obama has stepped forward to protect one of Texas's unique and valuable natural treasures. The community asked for the designation and the president answered. This new national monument will benefit the city's economy as well as schoolchildren, scientists and other visitors to this site. Waco Mammoth is a window to a world lost long ago, and with this designation, visitors from across the country will be able to continue learning about the science and history of these amazing creatures.

"Waco Mammoth is a classic site for inclusion in our National Park System. It is the nation's only discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene-era mammoths, and there is no other Park Service site specifically set aside to tell their story. The bones at Waco Mammoth provide a glimpse into North America's wild past, enabling us to see what lived here tens of thousands of years ago.

"Waco Mammoth is a perfect example of public-private collaboration to protect our nation's natural and historical landmarks. Committed and creative citizens recognized this site was worth protecting and worked together to ensure the excavation site is world-class so that it may one day be ready for the support of the National Park Service. Today, years of hard work and dedication by the Waco and Baylor University communities finally paid off, ensuring this invaluable educational landmark will continue to be explored and cherished by kids and adults along for many years to come."

John Blair
Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

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Basin and Range, Berrysessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth National Monument Statements

Collective Statements 3

Natural Resources Defense Council (NEW) 3

 Congressman Raul Grijalva, Arizona 3

 Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah 3

 Environment America 4

 League of Conservation Voters 4

 PEW 4

 Sierra Club 6

 The Wilderness Society 6

Basin and Range 7

U.S. Senator Harry Reid (NEW) 7

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval (NEW) 7

New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NEW)..... 8

 U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus 8

 U.S. Senator Dean Heller..... 9

 U.S. Congressman Joe Heck 9

 Richard Bryan, former U.S. Senator and former Nevada Governor 9

 Kevin Atkinson, Nevada State Senator..... 10

 Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman 10

 Rogich Communications Group 10

 Nevadans for Cultural Preservation 10

 Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers..... 10

 Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County Nevada 10

 Outside Las Vegas Foundation 11

 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority 11

 Las Vegas global economic alliance (LVGEA) 11

 Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art..... 11

 Melissa Peterson, Board Chair of the Las Vegas Arts Council..... 11

Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman 12

Elaine Wynn 12

Pete Ernaut, R&R Partners 12

Michael Brown, Barrick Mining 12

Jenna Morton, Morton Group 12

Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of Conservation Lands Foundation 12

Berryessa Snow Mountain 13

Bill Dodd, California State Assemblymember 13

Anthony Farrington, Lake County Supervisor 13

Cecilia Aguiar-Currey, Winters Mayor 13

Don Amador, Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition 13

Reno Franklin, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe and former Chair of National Association of Tribal
Historic Preservation Officers 13

John Pickerel, Owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse 14

Craig McNamara, Walnut Farmer & Land Owner 14

Linda Reiff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Napa Valley Vintners 14

Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited 14

Sara Husby, Executive Director, Tuleyome 14

Waco Mammoth..... 15

Former First Lady Laura Bush (NEW) 15

Suzanne Dixon, Senior Director, Regional Director of NPCA 15

Collective Statements

Natural Resources Defense Council (NEW)

WASHINGTON (July 10, 2015) – The three national monuments created today by President Obama will protect some of America’s most biodiverse mountain ecosystems, wild tracts of desert and nationally significant fossil beds.

The following is a statement by Sharon Buccino, director of the Land and Wildlife Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council:

“This is a gift to all Americans. By following through on his promise to make use of his executive powers to protect more public lands, President Obama also has burnished his conservation legacy. It’s heartening to know that our children and all future generations will have the opportunity to learn and draw inspiration from their visits to these beautiful, uniquely American places.”

http://www.nrdc.org/media/2015/150710.asp?utm_source=tw&utm_medium=tweet&utm_campaign=socialmedia

U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva, Arizona

Washington, D.C. – Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva today applauded President Obama for establishing three new national monuments under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Obama announced the establishment of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California, Mammoth Park National Monument in Texas and the Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada.

“I applaud President Obama for upholding our great American tradition of conservation and for continuing to make wise use of the Antiquities Act,” Grijalva said. “We have a moral responsibility to conserve and protect vital habitat, natural scenery and historical treasures, and President Obama has met that responsibility again today. The law has proven its worth time and time again, and today’s announcements show why it continues to be one of our country’s most important conservation tools.”

U.S. Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah

“President Obama has shown complete disdain for Congress and the people of Nevada, California, and Texas. This surreptitious land grab reveals that the Obama Administration will stop at nothing to lock up more and more land, with the stroke of a pen. I condemn this shameful power move which makes states and citizens fearful that the federal government can invade at any time to seize more lands like bandits in the night,” said Chairman Bishop.

“The White House has made a mess out of the democratic process – which my Committee will now have to try and rectify. How this decree impacts people and their livelihoods – including public safety, water rights, economic development, recreation, and grazing – should be handled by Congress before a designation, not after the fact. Once again, the Obama Administration has put politics above people. Now, Congress is left to fix the mess made by the White House.”

Margie Alt, Executive Director of Environment America

WASHINGTON, DC—Three of the nation’s spectacular natural and archeological wonders gain permanent protection today, as President Barack Obama creates Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas, Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada, and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in California.

The announcement, backed heavily by local businesses and residents and tourists from around the country, comes two days after the U.S. House narrowly voted to block monument designations in California, Nevada and eight other states.

“Today the president continues his commitment to a uniquely American idea -- that our natural wonders should be protected for the benefit of all, not sacrificed for the short-term gain of a few,” said Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America. “Some of our nation’s most marvelous landscapes can now be enjoyed today and for generations to come.”

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region, less than 100 miles from Sacramento and the Bay Area, is home to wintering bald eagles and a host of other wildlife, and is often described as an “outdoor wonderland,” with opportunities for hiking, camping, birdwatching, hunting, and horseback riding. In August, Environment California, a member of the Environment America federation, delivered a letter from more than 100 area businesses to Obama administration officials in support of the monument designation.

“What a great way to start the weekend for anyone who hikes, rides horses, or loves to visit this scenic treasure,” said Dan Jacobson, state director of Environment California. “Californians, local area businesses, and everyone who enjoys our great outdoors have real reason to celebrate today.”

“For more than 100 years, presidents starting with Teddy Roosevelt have protected our country’s most prized natural areas as national monuments,” said Alt. “For the 19th time since taking office, today President Obama fulfills that proud American tradition.”

Gene Karpinski, President of League of Conservation Voters

“By creating these three new national monuments, President Obama is continuing his commitment to preserving America’s treasured places and cementing his well-deserved place in conservation history. The President acted in response to the overwhelming support expressed by local communities and stakeholders across the country for protecting these places of extraordinary environmental, historic, and scientific value. We celebrate America’s three newest monuments alongside the nearby communities that will see a boost to their tourism economies and quality of life.”

Mike Matz, Director of PEW’s U.S. Public Lands Program

WASHINGTON—The Pew Charitable Trusts applauds President Barack Obama’s plan to proclaim three new national monuments: Basin and Range National Monument, which will cover about 704,000 acres in Nevada, 110 miles north of Las Vegas; Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, encompassing 330,780 acres, less than 100 miles from both the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas; and the Waco Mammoth archeological site in West Texas. The Nevada monument is larger than any other land monument the president has designated to date.

Mike Matz, director of Pew's U.S. public lands program, released the following statement:

"President Obama's plan to proclaim new national monuments in Nevada, California, and Texas speaks volumes about the power of local citizens who stand up to protect our public lands. We applaud his continued and thoughtful use of the Antiquities Act to set aside remarkable American landscapes and historic areas.

"Basin and Range National Monument will preserve a region rich in historic, cultural, and natural resources—a treasure for Nevadans and for all of us. This designation will safeguard irreplaceable Native American rock art, preserve wildlife habitat, and protect rare and sensitive plants.

"President Obama and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, along with Senator Harry Reid and Representative Dina Titus, closely consulted with residents, business owners, community and tourism leaders, and archaeologists to ensure that this area will be conserved for the benefit of generations to come.

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is the crown jewel of Northern California's wild Inner Coast Range. An intact ecological treasure located less than 100 miles from the Sacramento and San Francisco metropolitan areas, it is accessible to millions of Californians. Visitors enjoy whitewater rafting on the wild and scenic Cache Creek, hiking in the national forest, fishing in Lake Berryessa, camping, hunting, and horseback riding.

"Stretching from Putah Creek over 100 miles to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the Mendocino National Forest, it is one of the most biologically diverse regions in California. For years, members of the community worked together on a plan to preserve this special place for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. Yet legislative proposals to protect the region failed to advance in the past two Congresses, despite the support of farmers, ranchers, local and national recreation and conservation organizations, and numerous counties.

"Now, thanks to President Obama and the efforts of Representative Mike Thompson, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and other current and former members of the California congressional delegation, Berryessa Snow Mountain will become a national monument. This designation will ensure continued recreational opportunities, support the local economy, and safeguard the region's beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and waters—including important sources of drinking water and irrigation for nearby communities.

"In Texas, city officials and local leaders in Waco have been working with legislators for the past decade to make the Waco Mammoth Site part of the National Park System. Discovered by fossil hunters in 1978, the site preserves the story of a herd of Columbian mammoths believed to have been trapped by a flash flood approximately 68,000 years ago. President Obama's proclamation will bring this important archeological resource into the park system as a national monument.

"From coast to coast, communities are working to preserve natural, historic, and scenic treasures for the enjoyment of future generations. America's next national monuments, Basin and Range, Berryessa Snow Mountain, and Waco Mammoth, are outstanding local—and national—success stories."

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en>

Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club

“The Sierra Club applauds President Obama’s historic and unprecedented actions today. By utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Berryessa Snow Mountain, Basin and Range, and Waco Mammoth, he has continued to add to our nation’s outdoor legacy.

“By designating these new monuments, President Obama has ensured that these beautiful, historic landscapes will continue to benefit local communities for generations to come.

“It’s really welcoming to see President Obama once again reward the efforts of the hundreds of people over the years who have given their passion, time, and toil to protecting our public lands.”

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/07/basin-and-range-berryessa-snow-mountain-and-waco-mammoth-become-nation-s-next>

Jamie Williams, President of The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today from President Jamie Williams regarding the Obama Administration’s intent to designate three new national monuments in California, Nevada, and Texas.

“In the absence of action from the House and Senate to move legislation forward, President Obama’s proclamations will protect these stunning areas for many years to come, enabling more Americans to experience their natural and cultural wonders and providing a boost to local economies,” said Williams.

“Bedrock conservation laws like the Antiquities Act help American communities build strong ties to our shared public lands and this law should be vigorously defended from current attempts to weaken it.”

<https://wilderness.org/press-release/statement-wilderness-society-creation-three-new-national-monuments>

Basin and Range National Monument

U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Nevada (NEW)

"I love Nevada, and the Nevada that I know and love is the quiet, starkly beautiful desert. Today's designation to protect over 700,000 acres of this unique Nevada desert, known as Basin and Range, is historic.

"The new Basin and Range National Monument is an area where the Mojave Desert meets the Great Basin and Joshua trees and cactus give way to a sea of sagebrush. It is home to desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope. The land provided food and shelter for ancient people and we can still see the history of those people today in the incredible rock art panels. This area is a time capsule of our pioneering western history, from early explorers to mining to the ranching that still exists today. In its center is City, a grand modern art sculpture by world renowned artist Michael Heizer. It is a peaceful place. To me, it feels like home.

"President Obama will be remembered for many accomplishments, but I am confident this action today will be a defining legacy for him. I have nothing but admiration for President Obama. I appreciate more than I can put into words what he has done today to preserve the beauty of the Nevada desert for our grandchildren, their grandchildren, and generations to come. He has used his authority under the Antiquities Act to do great things all over the country and he's not done yet. There are vast landscapes and historic treasures from Idaho to California to Oregon that have languished in Congress. I hope that the President will continue to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect these places.

"As a little boy growing up in Searchlight, my family didn't travel or go on vacations. But we were able to visit Fort Piute Springs, about fifteen miles away from my home. To me it was a supernatural place, it was my Disneyland. It had a Calvary fort, it had gushing ponds of water, it had lily pads and cattails – it was magic. Decades later I went back to visit only to find it in ruins. I thought it was profoundly unfair that little boys and girls wouldn't be able to experience the thrill of Piute Springs like I had. I became determined that someday I would preserve Piute Springs and places like it. I have worked hard to do that.

"Everything I've done for the environment is based on my experience as a little boy going to Piute Springs. We have an obligation to preserve these precious lands for future generations. I am so happy with the Basin and Range National Monument designation. Today we accomplished something that will last for generations."

http://www.reid.senate.gov/press_releases/2015-07-10-reid-statement-on-president-obamas-basin-and-range-monument-designation

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval (NEW)

Governor Brian Sandoval issued the following statement today on President Obama's Basin and Range Monument Designation.

“Nevadans and our federal delegation have worked together for generations to conserve, protect, and maintain our precious natural resources. Where the federal government asserts ultimate jurisdiction, Nevada has been, and continues to be, a willing partner with federal agencies and administrative bodies. The Basin and Range Monument designation, however, bypassed Congress on a public lands issue in which Nevada and our entire delegation should have had a primary role in working collectively to build consensus as we have done successfully in the past,” said Governor Brian Sandoval. “While we all share a common goal of preserving our lands for the use and enjoyment of generations to come, I would have preferred a more collaborative process when making such an important designation. I firmly believe our local ranchers, environmentalists, and community stakeholders are the best experts in ensuring Nevada’s lands are preserved, protected and accessible.”

<http://gov.nv.gov/News-and-Media/Press/2015/Sandoval-Statement-on-Basin-and-Range-Monument-Designation/>

New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NEW)

New Mexico sportsmen applaud President Obama’s decision to protect the public lands of Basin and Range in central Nevada, as the nation’s newest national monument. We especially appreciate that the area will be permanently protected, ensuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to hunt there in the future, too.

The new monument will protect 704,000 acres in Nye and Lincoln counties in central Nevada. The area has been long prized by conservationists and championed by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., as containing unspoiled landscape, habitat for sensitive animal and plant species and Native American artifacts and petroglyphs.

It also provides hunting and outdoor opportunities to the region – traditions that have existed for generations and that will continue to exist, despite claims to the contrary.

We are glad to hear that sportsmen in Nevada will retain access to in the Basin and Range region, just as New Mexico sportsmen did when the Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks national monuments were protected.

With this designation, this incredible landscape will never be closed, divided, or sold. Monument status means permanent protection for wildlife habitat and public access.

U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus, Nevada

Washington, D.C. – Today Congresswoman Dina Titus of Nevada’s First District released the following statement regarding the designation of Basin & Range National Monument, by President Obama:

“The Basin and Range National Monument stands as a showcase of Nevada’s wondrous desert habitat,” said Congresswoman Titus. “Home to flora and fauna native only to our state, this monument preserves and protects the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources of this significant region for generations to come. I am proud to stand with President Obama, Senator Reid, and all the Nevadans who have advocated for establishing this lasting symbol of the region’s natural beauty and rich history.”

Congresswoman Titus has long advocated for conservation of Nevada's open spaces and is the sponsor of H.R. 857, the Garden Valley Withdrawal Act to protect this region for generations.

U.S. Senator Dean Heller, Nevada

"The Nevada Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan manner on conservation and public lands issues through the legislative process. With the stroke of a pen, President Obama has bypassed Congress and unilaterally restricted the use of over 700,000 acres of Nevada's public land. I have always been forthright with my position that any federal action to change access on our public lands should be discussed in an open and transparent process incorporating the input and support from local communities," said Senator Dean Heller

<http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=a5453905-2944-418f-908f-3b678690aa72>

U.S. Congressman Joe Heck, Nevada

"President Obama often says 'we are stronger as a nation when we work together.' Apparently that rule does not apply to public lands issues when it involves his political allies. The Basin and Range Monument designation goes well beyond the intention of the Antiquities Act which limits parcels reserved by the President to the 'smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.' It is beyond belief that an area larger than the state of Rhode Island is the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of this land.

"The Nevada delegation has a tradition of working together to build consensus on lands bills important to our state; consider the Tule Springs legislation or my own Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act. Those efforts were the result of years of work in Nevada and in Congress and resulted in laws that enjoy wide public support. Yet the President, with the stroke of a pen, has bypassed Congress yet again and ignored any input from Nevadans on this designation. If we are stronger when we work together, then let's actually work together."

<https://heck.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-joe-heck-statement-president-obamas-basin-and-range-monument>

Richard Bryan, Former U.S. Senator and former Nevada Governor

"As a former Senator, I am proud to have sponsored the Black Rock National Conservation Area legislation. Working closely with Senator Reid I supported the establishment of a National Conservation Area at Red Rock and a National Recreation Area at Mount Charleston.

For more than a decade Nevadans have discussed how to protect the Garden and Coal Valleys because tourism and recreation play an important part of our economy. We now have that protection. I want to thank Senator Harry Reid, Congresswoman Titus, Secretary Sally Jewell and President Obama for protecting this Nevada treasure."

Kelvin Atkinson, State Senator, member of the Natural Resources committee

"I was a staunch supporter of keeping public lands in public hands this past legislative session and I am proud to add my voice in supporting Nevada's newest National Monument, Basin and Range. This will add tremendous benefits to our state's economy and I applaud Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus for their tireless work on ensuring Nevada's landscapes are protected. I also thank President Obama for using his constitutional authority to protect this land."

Statements made prior to the announcement

Heidi Swank, Nevada State Assemblywoman

"I consider Nevada's public lands to be a national treasure. Basin and Range is a unique opportunity where we are combining modern art with prehistoric art. I recognize the importance of protecting this place for current and future generations and wholeheartedly support any efforts to do so."

Sig Rogich, President of The Rogich Communications Group

"Nevada is indeed fortunate, if not blessed, to be the home of Michael Heizer's City, a world-class work of art in an area that is surrounded with unparalleled beauty and unspoiled open spaces filled with thousands of archeological sites. As I did in my days in the White House as an Assistant to President George H. W. Bush, I fully support preservation of the surrounding Basin and Range landscape. This national monument designation is not only be great for our state and our economy today, but for generations to come."

Rayette Martin, Executive Director, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

"The Basin and Range National Monument has a high density of important cultural sites which is why Nevadans for Cultural Preservation support the designation. Through preserving this resource-rich region, people from around country will be able to continue to access and experience Nevada's history within the landscape it was created. These areas offer invaluable opportunities for residents, visitors and future generations to learn about Nevada."

Chris Mero, Chairman, Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

"Protecting Basin & Range preserves big, intact habitat for elk, sage-grouse, and other important wildlife for sportsmen, Nevadans and all Americans. A National Monument gets the job done."

Pat Skorkowsky, Superintendent of Schools, Clark County Nevada

"As superintendent to the nation's fifth-largest school system, I am aware of how important exposure to history, art and the outdoors is for our students. Early archeological sites as well as globally-recognized contemporary art are inextricably linked to the Basin and Range National Monument. These are things that cannot be experienced within a museum. Conserving our irreplaceable natural and cultural heritage benefits schoolchildren and visitors, bringing a tremendous sense of pride to our state for both current and future generations."

Mauricia Baca, Executive Director of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation

“This new national monument offers a slew of marvelous outdoor recreation activities – just two hours from Vegas. The President, Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus have protected Nevada’s history and heritage for residents and tourists alike to explore.”

Thomas Tait, Chair of the Board of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation and former Secretary of Tourism for Nevada for the Nevada Commission on Tourism

“We are pleased that increased attention is being focused on encouraging tourism on Nevada’s public lands. The future of Las Vegas is vested in the entire experience a visitor finds here. This new National Monument will be attractive to environmentally-conscious international customers while also enhancing the quality of life for Southern Nevada residents.”

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

“Today, we extend our support for the Basin and Range area to also receive that same protection for its cultural, historical, and environmental significance. In addition to the tourism benefits, granting this protection will also ensure that local residents will have the opportunity to experience the recreation, history, and cultural elements of these outdoor attractions. Eco-tourism is a growing segment in the travel community – particularly among international travelers to Las Vegas. Overseas visitors are attracted to the Southwest landscape and the cowboy culture that is represented here. Maintaining these protected areas will help persuade international visitors to make Southern Nevada their main hub for their visit to the Southwestern United States, continuing to boost our economy.”

Tom Skancke, President, Las Vegas global economic alliance (LVGEA)

“Southern Nevada has a great tradition of preserving its surrounding natural and cultural environs for recreation and future generations. These preserved areas help to define who we are as Southern Nevadans and give us a sense of community pride, but they also help drive our economy. The designation of the Basin and Range will help drive more tourists to rural Nevada and boost the southern Nevada regional economy.”

Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

“Designating the Basin and Range National Monument will achieve two remarkable outcomes—a world-class artwork would endure into the future as it was envisioned, surrounded by sublimely beautiful open country; and a majestic Western American landscape would remain unspoiled for future generations.”

Melissa Peterson, Board Chair of the Las Vegas Arts Council

“The West’s wide-open, protected landscapes set America apart from the rest of the world, and define who we are as Nevadans. Basin and Range brings together geology, archaeology, history and art. What better gift to give our children than the permanent protection of this area?”

Elaine Wynn

“The significance of the Basin and Range area and *City* by Michael Heizer cannot be understated. This will change the face of Nevada; it will create a whole new kind of tourism to our state. Nevada is growing up and we should take steps necessary to capture this unique place for now and for generations to come. I’m proud to be an original champion of protecting Basin and Range.”

Pete Ernaut, R&R Partners

“Michael Heizer could have chosen potentially any landscape, but he chose Nevada for the Western spirit we represent. He specifically chose Garden Valley for its remote location, unspoiled valleys, and its naturally available materials. The Worthington Mountains, Golden Gate Range, and Mount Irish provide the perfect scenic backdrop for *City*. These mountain ranges include wilderness areas and incredible opportunities for recreation. Together, they create a place that is uniquely Nevadan, but belongs now, to the world.”

Michael Brown, Barrick Mining

“Barrick has a long history in Nevada, now employing more than 4,000 and leading the state in gold production. Our employees and their families work and live throughout Nevada and they place great value in the natural and cultural features of the lands they call home. As the Executive Director, I support the permanent preservation of the lands surrounding *City*.”

Jenna Morton, Morton Group

“As the daughter of an archaeologist, I am all too aware of the challenge of reconstructing the story of our forbears from shards. Southern Nevada public lands are the legacy we will leave our children—intact. Basin and Range is unique in cultural resources and landscapes and deserves permanent preservation for us, for all of our children, and for their children.”

Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of Conservation Lands Foundation

“At a time when America’s open spaces are rapidly disappearing, it is encouraging to see President Obama set aside some of Nevada’s most scenic mountains and valleys as the Basin and Range National Monument. This area is like no place else on earth. With its unspoiled vistas, petroglyphs, and wildlife habitat, Basin and Range National Monument is an ideal addition to our National Conservation Lands.”

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Bill Dodd, California State Assemblymember

"The designation of this unique area as a national monument will help preserve the region's natural splendor for future generations. The national monument will provide continued recreational opportunities and will bring enhanced visitation. This is a great example of how we can protect our environment and support our local economy."

Anthony Farrington, Lake County Supervisor

"The Berryessa-Snow Mountain region provides easily-accessible opportunities for those living in Sacramento and the Bay Area to come up for a weekend and enjoy the recreation that this area has to offer. The benefits of such protection will extend far beyond the land itself to the surrounding areas, bringing new visitors to our communities as they take advantage of our recreational opportunities."

Cecilia Aguiar-Currey, Winters Mayor

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is an enormous victory for our region. This area is often referred to as our "wild backyard," and I am delighted that these lands are now protected permanently. Another benefit to protecting this amazing landscape is increased visibility, which will be advantageous to our local economies. This designation will encourage more visitation. Those passing through to these lands are likely to stop for a bite to eat, and some might want to stay an extra day to take in the scenery and enjoy the services and amenities offered by our local communities."

Don Amador, Western Representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition

"I am proud to support the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument because it will forever safeguard the trails and recreational opportunities that so many people, including myself, enjoy. Congressman Thompson worked hard to give all stakeholders a place at the table by forging partnerships, listening to community concerns, and making sure everyone's input was included in the legislation leading up to this designation. I appreciate President Obama listening to our community and taking action to protect this spectacular place."

Reno Franklin, Chairman, Kashia Pomo Tribe and former Chair of National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

"The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument brings with it the opportunity to forever protect thousands of the most beautiful lands that California has to offer. The rich history, rare natural resources and unique cultural landscape are a treasure that must be protected for future generations to enjoy. The administration needs to champion more collaborative preservation projects like this. Ones where there is a group effort of tribal communities, local communities, environmental groups, elected state and federal officials and local, state and federal agencies that all support the shared group vision of this National Monument."

John Pickerel, Owner of Buckhorn Steakhouse

“As a local business owner, I am thrilled to see President Obama take action to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. It will help our local economy and give local businesses more opportunities to thrive. Protecting these lands safeguards the region’s natural resources and wildlife habitat and will enhance recreational opportunities for everyone. It will encourage tourism particularly along scenic Highway 128 from Winters to Napa and create a desirable place for people to live and work.”

Craig McNamara, Walnut Farmer & Land Owner

“As a farmer, my livelihood depends on land and water. Without either, I’m out of business, which is why it is especially important to me to do all I can to conserve. Healthy landscapes and clean water is part of what makes Northern California such a special place to live and work, which is why I support the new Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.”

Linda Reiff, President and Chief Executive Officer, Napa Valley Vintners

“Napa Valley Vintners understand that water is the lifeblood of any agricultural community. Without protected sources of clean water, particularly given the current scarcity in California, agriculture becomes untenable. This is why protecting the Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument is so important to those who depend on the waters this designation will protect.”

Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited

“TU members and California sportsmen are proud to have played a role in protecting this California crown jewel, and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations in the many streams and lakes that support outstanding fishing for trout and bass,” said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. “Thank you, President Obama for protecting this amazing landscape, and ensuring that future generations of sportsmen will have access to clean water and intact habitat that support excellent fishing and hunting opportunities.”

Sara Husby, Executive Director, Tuleyome

“We are ecstatic that President Obama has recognized the importance of protecting these special lands,” said Sara Husby, Executive Director for Tuleyome - the regional conservation organization that spearheaded the protection efforts. “Together with our congressional champions and the many, many supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region we got this done. I am overjoyed.”

Waco Mammoth National Monument

Former First Lady Laura Bush (NEW)

"Today is a special day for Texas! President Bush and I are thrilled that the Waco Mammoth Site is America's newest national monument. I applaud President Obama, the City of Waco, Baylor University, and now the National Park Service, who worked to develop, preserve, and champion the Waco Mammoth Site," said former First Lady Laura Bush. "The Waco Mammoth Site takes visitors back in time nearly 65,000 years, and reminds us of our country's connection to the history of our planet. As we approach the Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, this is a great time to celebrate our nation's parks."our country's connection to the natural history of our planet. As we approach the Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016, this is a great way to celebrate our national parks and kick off a second century of stewardship."

Suzanne Dixon, Senior Director, Regional Director of NPCA

"We are grateful that President Obama has stepped forward to protect one of Texas's unique and valuable natural treasures. The community asked for the designation and the president answered. This new national monument will benefit the city's economy as well as schoolchildren, scientists and other visitors to this site. Waco Mammoth is a window to a world lost long ago, and with this designation, visitors from across the country will be able to continue learning about the science and history of these amazing creatures.

"Waco Mammoth is a classic site for inclusion in our National Park System. It is the nation's only discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene-era mammoths, and there is no other Park Service site specifically set aside to tell their story. The bones at Waco Mammoth provide a glimpse into North America's wild past, enabling us to see what lived here tens of thousands of years ago.

"Waco Mammoth is a perfect example of public-private collaboration to protect our nation's natural and historical landmarks. Committed and creative citizens recognized this site was worth protecting and worked together to ensure the excavation site is world-class so that it may one day be ready for the support of the National Park Service. Today, years of hard work and dedication by the Waco and Baylor University communities finally paid off, ensuring this invaluable educational landmark will continue to be explored and cherished by kids and adults along for many years to come."



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Sec. Jewell river photos

1 message

Matulka, Rebecca <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 9:18 AM

last set of photos from Browns Canyon

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

From: **Jessica Kershaw** <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Sat, Jul 18, 2015 at 4:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: Sec. Jewell river photos
To: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, Larry Gillick <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lacayo, Vanessa" <vlacayo@blm.gov>
To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, "Hall, Steven B" <sbhall@blm.gov>, Deanna Masterson <dmasters@blm.gov>
Subject: Sec. Jewell river photos

Here's a handful of photos. I will be loading more to a google drive account this afternoon.

Take Care,
Vanessa Lacayo
Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office
Public Affairs Specialist
Office: 303-239-3681 | Cell: 303-808-2004
vlacayo@blm.gov

Follow BLM Colorado on Social Media!









--
Rebecca Matulka
Senior Digital Media Strategist
U.S. Department of the Interior

202.208.5337



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Pictures

2 messages

Maria Rozman <maria@hispanicaccess.org>
To: tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov

Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 9:06 AM

Good morning Tami,
Would you please send us the link with the pictures of the Browns Canyon reception at the DOI?

Thank you.

Best regards,

—
Maria Rozman
Director of Hispanic Media
Hispanic Access Foundation
2111 Wilson Blvd, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201
<http://hispanicaccess.org>



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: Maria Rozman <maria@hispanicaccess.org>

Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 10:23 AM

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-63Knt9>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Re: Browns Canyon photos

2 messages

Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 10:47 PM

To: "Leff, Craig" <cleff@blm.gov>, Steven B Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>, Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

Awesome! Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 20, 2015, at 5:48 PM, Leff, Craig <cleff@blm.gov> wrote:

thanks!

On Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 5:15 PM, Hall, Steven <sbhall@blm.gov> wrote:

Jessica and Craig,

More photos via google drive for your use. We're going to send DVDs to our partners who can't get on google drive.

Steven Hall
BLM Colorado Communications Director
303.239.3672
sbhall@blm.gov

[Click here to follow us on social media!](#)

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

From: **Lacayo, Vanessa** <vlacayo@blm.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 2:11 PM
Subject: Re: Browns Canyon photos
To: "Hall, Steven B" <sbhall@blm.gov>
Cc: BLM_CO_SO_CO912 <blm_co_so_co912@blm.gov>

I had more time today to go through the photos. I created two google drive accounts with all the photos of Neil and Sec. Jewell. Please see the links below. The google drive accounts are open to all DOI employees.

Neil photos:

(b) (5)

Sec. Jewell photos:

(b) (5)

Take Care,
Vanessa Lacayo

5/2/2016

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: Browns Canyon photos

Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office
Public Affairs Specialist
Office: 303-239-3681 | Cell: 303-808-2004
vlacayo@blm.gov

Follow BLM Colorado on Social Media!



--

Craig Leff
BLM Communications
202-208-6913 (office)
202-549-9218 (cell)

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jul 21, 2015 at 7:58 AM

To: vlacayo@blm.gov

Cc: "Leff, Craig" <cleff@blm.gov>, Steven B Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>

disregard the request for (b) (6) the settings on my work computer were incorrect. I was able to access the photos on Google drive -

[Quoted text hidden]



Degroff, Amanda <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>

3-10-16 OCO Nightly

1 message

Adams, Nathan <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 2:09 PM

To: OS_OCO <os_oco@ios.doi.gov>, DOI_OPA_Bureau_Contacts <doi_opa_bureau_contacts@ios.doi.gov>

Nightly Report to White House Comms

3-10-16

i. Today's Announcements

- [Today, Secretary Jewell attended an event at the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge](#) to celebrate a FWS determination to remove ESA protections from the Louisiana black bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*) due to recovery. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Bean and FWS Director Dan Ashe will also be in attendance. This is a great ESA success story that the Department will tout. This was open press.
- Today, Secretary Jewell took part in a press conference call with EPA Administrator McCarthy to roll out new commitments between the U.S. and Canada in advance of Prime Minister Trudeau's official.
- Today, Deputy Secretary Connor spoke at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, CO. He was speaking at the 2016 Martz Winter Symposium at CU Law School - A Celebration of the Work of Charles Wilkinson. He gave the opening remarks at the symposium. The event was open press.

ii. Today's Major Interviews

- N/A

iii. Major Press Inquiries/Stories for Flagged Awareness

- NPR is running a special [National Park Service Centennial series of stories](#) this week, focusing on the challenges facing the NPS.

iv. Social/Digital Amplification

- Interior amplified the Louisiana Black Bear delisting story on social media. [@SecretaryJewell](#) and [@Interior](#) will tweet about it and there will be a post on Interior's [Facebook page](#).

v. Major Clips

- **SECRETARY JEWELL TO CELEBRATE RECOVERY OF LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR ON THURSDAY.** [KSLA-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (3/9, 63K) reports that on Thursday, March 10, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "travel to Tensas National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate a successful conservation partnership to protect and recover the Louisiana Black bear from the brink of extinction." Jewell will "highlight meaningful

“broadcast hundreds of hours from the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge” and from “the 2014 standoff in Nevada between ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management.” Santilli has argued that the federal charges against him are based on “things he’s said.” The report says that is “raising questions about Santilli’s First Amendment rights.”

- o **Additional Coverage Of Investigation Of Shots Fired During Arrests Of Oregon Occupiers.** Additional coverage that “FBI agents who were at the scene of the shooting death of a key figure of the occupation of an Oregon national wildlife refuge are under federal investigation for not disclosing they fired two shots that missed Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum” was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/9, 975K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/9, 442K), [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/9, 30K), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (3/9, 85K), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (3/9, 177K).
- o **Secretary Jewell Criticized For Lack Of Leadership During Malheur Occupation.** In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/10, 74K), Matt Jenkins criticizes the lack of leadership by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Jenkins argues that “Jewell ought to be the first person to stand up for these treasures when they come under attack,” but “instead, we got complete silence.” He also points out that Jewell was also “a no-show” during “the showdown on Cliven Bundy’s ranch in Nevada, in 2014.”
- **MAJORITY OF MALHEUR COUNTY VOTERS OPPOSE OWYHEE MONUMENT.** The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (3/9, 19K) reports that “about 54 percent of eligible voters in Malheur County registered their opposition to a proposed Owyhee Canyonlands national monument in Tuesday’s advisory referendum.” The article notes that “of the votes cast, 90 percent were in opposition to a monument designation.” It adds that “there were 5,666 votes opposed, with 633 votes in support of a monument, according to complete and unofficial results from the Malheur County Clerk’s office.” Also, “the turnout for the election was 54.25 percent of registered voters, with 6,301 ballots cast.”
 - Additional coverage was provided by [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).
 - o **Interior Officials Meet Oregon Officials On Land Management Issues.** [My Columbia Basin \(WA\)](#) (3/9) reports that Umatilla County Commissioner Larry Givens, commenting on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with meetings with legislators and lobbyists, said that “federal officials are listening to questions about natural resource and federal land management.” Givens said “during his time on Capitol Hill, he had a meeting with National Parks Director John Jarvis.” Meanwhile, Harney County Judge Steve Grasty met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.
- **INTERIOR FILM FROM 1939 SHOWS ORIGINS OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS.** [SCV-TV](#) Santa Clarita, CA (3/9) shows an Interior Department film from 1939 which “examines the origins of the Civilian Conservation Corps and profiles various accomplishments of the group in helping to build our nation’s parks.”

- **SEN. MURKOWSKI, FOREST SERVICE CHIEF TIDWELL CLASH OVER TONGASS LOGGING PLAN.** [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that “a Forest Service draft plan to end old-growth logging at Alaska’s Tongass National Forest sparked several tense exchanges yesterday between the agency’s head and Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski.” Murkowski, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, asked Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell “to hold off on advancing the plan to move from old-growth to new-growth logging in Tongass until completing a detailed inventory to ensure there is actually enough young-growth timber to sustain the industry.” Murkowski told Tidwell “she was particularly concerned that the Forest Service’s \$4.9 billion fiscal 2017 budget request did not include funding to pay for such an inventory.” However, “Tidwell told Murkowski that the Forest Service intends to move forward with the plan, even if the inventory is not complete, as part of an ongoing effort to amend the Tongass National Forest’s land-use plan to identify which areas should be available for timber harvest.”
- **RESEARCHER DEVELOPS SAGE GROUSE MAP.** The [Mountain Mail](#) (3/9, 17K) reports that “a Colorado State University researcher has developed an interactive online map to better target invasive species that are damaging sage grouse habitat and associated rangeland.” In 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture “launched a conservation effort called the Sage Grouse Initiative, which will use the new map.”

 - Additional coverage was provided by the [Rocky Mountain Collegian \(CO\)](#) (3/9, 201).
- **WESTERN LAND MANAGERS RELEASE REPORT ON BATTLING INVASIVE WEEDS.** The [AP](#) (3/9, Ridler, 285K) reports that “public lands managers have released an outline for creating a decades-long strategy to combat wildfire-prone invasive weeds considered a main threat to Great Basin sagebrush ecosystems.” According to the report released Monday by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, “piecemeal efforts must be replaced by landscape-wide strategies stretching across Western states.” The article notes that “the report is part of a much larger effort following Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s order in January 2015 calling for a ‘science-based’ strategy that safeguards the greater sage grouse while contending with wildfires that have grown larger over the years and have been especially destructive in the Great Basin region.”

 - Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/9, 198K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/9, 337K), and the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (3/9, 73K).
- **UTAH LEGISLATURE SETS ASIDE FUNDS FOR LAWSUIT TO DEMAND CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS.** The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that “Utah budget leaders on Wednesday approved setting aside \$4.5 million as the first payment toward a lawsuit aimed at asserting state ownership of tens of millions of acres of federal land within Utah’s borders.” According to the article, “the lawsuit money is being set aside in case Attorney General Sean Reyes decides to file the public-lands lawsuit that has been years in the making.” Also, “another \$250,000 was earmarked to go toward a group created by rural county commissioners that could bolster the legal defense of San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.”

 - Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/10, 388K).

- **ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER GAINS LEADER.** Additional coverage that the Interior Department has named Jeff Klein Executive Director Of the Natural Resource Investment Center was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (3/9).
- **NEWEST CALIFORNIA MONUMENTS PRAISED.** In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/9, 98K), Pastor Frank Ruiz writes that “Latinos in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are thrilled that President Obama recently designated our nation’s three newest national monuments – Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains – in the California desert.” Ruiz expresses gratitude “to President Obama and Senator Feinstein, along with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for their leadership in assuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the desert.”
- **SUPPORT URGED FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT PROJECT.** In an editorial, the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (3/9, 87K) notes that Sen. Cory Gardner recently questioned Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor about “their commitment to the Arkansas Valley Conduit project.” Gardner said, “They pledged continued support for the conduit and my legislation that helps to finally get construction of the project underway.” The paper hopes “Gardner can get all the needed support in Washington, D.C., for his measure so that building the much-needed pipeline moves along as quickly as possible.”

vi. Tomorrow’s Announcements

- Tomorrow, BOEM will update its 30-year old regulations to incorporate important air quality-related changes and to account for the recent legislative change that added the North Slope Borough to BOEM’s jurisdiction. The proposed rule is with OMB for review. BOEM anticipates that the OMB review will conclude soon and that the bureau will announce the rule in March.
- Tomorrow, Commissioner Estevan López will testify today before the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee on the FY 2017 Budget Request for the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Tomorrow, BLM-ID will release the draft Supplemental EIS for segments 8 and 9 of the Gateway West transmission line project. The draft Supplemental EIS assesses new information that became available since the final EIS and ROD were published. The BLM has identified two co-preferred alternatives in the draft Supplemental EIS: one that partially routes the line inside the Morley-Nelson Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and one that substantially avoids the NCA by routing south.
- Tomorrow is the deadline for the first step of the [Land Buy-Back Program’s Planning Initiative](#). Eligible tribal governments not already scheduled for implementation are invited to formally indicate their interest in participating in the Program.

###

Nate Adams
Office of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-2060



Degroff, Amanda <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>

New MMS Alert - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell - KQED-FM (Radio)

1 message

Results@tveyes-alerts.com <Results@tveyes-alerts.com>

Sun, Mar 20, 2016 at 10:04 AM

To: interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Media Alert From TVEyes Media Monitoring Suite



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on KQED-FM (Radio) - San Francisco, CA

03/20/2016 06:37:15

... 330000 acres public lands has been dedicated in northern California U.S. interior Secretary Sally Jewell joined federal and state officials near the town of Williams on Saturday to mark the creation of the various small mountain National Monument ...

(click thumbnail to play)

[Click here to deactivate e-mail alerting for this scheduled alert.](#)

This is an Automated Alert Message - Please do not reply
[Questions or Comments?](#)



Degroff, Amanda <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, February 25, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Feb 25, 2016 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please [contact](#) Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Secretary Jewell Grilled On Coal Leasing Moratorium.
- + Secretary Jewell, Sen. Murkowski Spar Over King Cove Road.
- + Oregon Refuge Occupiers Plead Not Guilty As More Indictments Likely.
- + Vice President Biden To Visit Mexico City For US-Mexico Economic Summit.
- + House Panel Scrutinizes "Mitigation" Policy.
- + LWCF, Ivory Amendments Fail To Get Into Sportsmen Bill Vote.
- + Committee Leaders Point To Common Goals, But Disagree On Approach.
- + Conservation Group Scores Lawmakers On Environmental Policies.
- + Wildland Fire Study Highlights Science-Based Data Collection Benefits.
- + Lawyer At Forefront Of Conservation Movement Passes Away.
- + Additional Converge: Three New National Monuments Designated In California.
- + Additional Coverage: Federal Land Management An Issue In Presidential Race.
- + EPA Accused Of Avoiding Responsibility For Gold King Mine Disaster.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + Judge Approves Settlement In Underfunded Federal Contract Lawsuit.
- + House Passes Tribal Trust Asset Reform Bill.
- + BIA's Decision Not To Designate Tribal Leader Upheld.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + Continuing Coverage Of Conference On Self-determination.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + BOR Official In FBI Corruption Investigation Tied To Las Vegas Firm He Supervised.
- + Sen. Feinstein Working To Clear Path For Drought Bill.
- + House Hearing On California Water Marked By Tension.
- + Some California Farmers To Receive No Water Because Of EPA Efforts To Save Fish.
- + Rep. Knight Introduces Clean Water Bill.
- + Hungry Horse Dam Project Could Cost \$200 Million.
- + Workers Fixing Leak On Grand Coulee Dam.
- + Public Meetings To Be Held On Glen Canyon Dam.
- + Mexico Pays Down Rio Grande Water Debt.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + Deepwater Wind Eyes Brooklyn Site For Offshore Wind Base.
- + Permit Pulled For Palen Solar Project.
- + Nevada Wind Energy Project Faces Resistance.

- + Changes To DRECP Suggested.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Appeals Court Declines To Fast-track Fracking Appeal.
- + Concerns Raised About Reclamation By Mining Companies.
- + Alaska Governor Encouraging ANWR Development.
- + Murray Energy Testifies Before House On Stream Protection Rule.
- + McCarthy: Energy Industry Emits More Methane Than Previously Thought.
- + BLM Seeks Public Input On Capturing Natural Gas Waste.
- + Additional Coverage: Climate Activist Bids In Lease Auction.
- + Tate: China, Not Obama To Blame For US Coal Collapse.
- + Americans For Prosperity Directors: Right-To-Work Laws Would Revive Coal States.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Rally Held Against Offshore Drilling In New Jersey.
- + Additional Coverage: Study Shows Impact Of BP Oil Spill On Deepwater Shipwrecks.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM, County Officials Meet To Discuss Control Of Wild Burro Herds.
- + Expansion Of Utah Military Testing Range Criticized By Environmentalists.
- + Utah Congressman Takes Aim At Federal Law Enforcement.
- + Richfield Reaper: Public Land Use Needs To Be Preserved.
- + Writer Claims "BLM Policing, Politics Are Overzealous."
- + Congress Urged To Protect Wild Horses.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS Director Dan Ashe Interviewed.
- + 28 Cities Awarded FWS Grant.
- + Project Announced To Raise Elevation Of Sachuest Point Marsh.
- + New Headquarters Under Construction At Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge.
- + Continuing Coverage: Officials Investigating Death Of 13 Bald Eagles On A Maryland Farm.
- + Marine Mammal Biologists Visit Saint Lawrence Island.
- + New Mexico Game Board To Hear Turner Wolf Request.
- + Endangered Animals At Iowa Zoo Suffer Captivity, Poor Conditions.
- + Support Urged For Prairie Chicken Conservation Program.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Certifies 2015 Visitation Numbers At 307 Million.
- + Commemorative Stamp Honoring Founder Of A.M.E.
- + House Passes Kennesaw Mountain Park, MLK Site Expansion Bills.
- + Sen Feinstein Reintroduces Legislation That Could Expand Joshua Tree National Park.
- + Increase In Visitors Expected At Flight 93 Memorial.
- + Wyoming Senators Seek To Sell Two Park Parcels At Once.
- + NPS Seeks To Preserve Yosemite Names.
- + NPS Extends Comment Period For Grand Canyon Backcountry Management.
- + Cavems Elevator Repair Target Date Pushed To May.
- + First Yellowstone Grizzly Spotted Out Of Its Den.
- + New Play Depicts How Boston Massacre Helped Shape America.
- + Additional Coverage Of "National Parks Adventure".
- + Additional Coverage Of Death Valley's "Super Bloom" Of Wildflowers.
- + Additional Coverage Of Yosemite "Firefall" Falls Phenomenon.
- + Additional Coverage: NPS Proposes New Dog-walking Regulations At Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- + Congress Urged To Fund Maintenance Of National Parks.

US Geological Survey:

- + Scientists Warn Virus Threatens Salamanders.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Republican Nevada Governor Floated As Potential Obama High Court Nominee.

- + [Poll: Trump Seizes Lead In Oklahoma, Holds Nine-Point Edge.](#)
- + [Lynch: Law Prohibits Sending Gitmo Detainees To US Territory.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL GRILLED ON COAL LEASING MORATORIUM. [E&E Daily](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that "Senate Republicans and other pro-coal lawmakers aren't giving up the fight to block the Obama administration's new moratorium on leasing federal coal." Lawmakers are also pushing "the administration on mining company cleanup liabilities, rulemaking to protect waterways from coal extraction and aid for union workers." Critics of the new moratorium "grilled" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during Tuesday's Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on the administration's fiscal 2017 budget. Sen. John Barrasso "questioned Jewell's business acumen as the administration considers increasing royalty rates to boost revenues from coal mining."

[ClimateWire](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that speaking with reporters after the hearing, "Jewell reiterated the important role her agency is playing in the fight against climate change." The article says that "with 11 months left before Obama leaves the White House, Jewell stressed that her agency is working hard to finalize as many regulations as possible." She said, "There is no question that the emissions of carbon from the burning of fossil fuels, or worse, the venting of methane into the atmosphere without being flared, are significant contributors to climate change. We believe that is something that we need to address, and these regulations will provide a mechanism on public lands ... to take climate and the impact of carbon emissions on climate into account."

Additional coverage of the moratorium provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/25, 77K), the [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (2/24, 167), the [Big Sky Business Journal \(MT\)](#) (2/24), [JD Supra](#) (2/24, 5K), and [KTWO-AM Casper \(WY\)](#) Casper, WY (2/24, 576).

Editorial: Federal Coal Lease Moratorium About Environment, Taxpayer Value. The [Seattle Times](#) (2/24, 1.12M) editorializes on the launch of a three-year review of the federal coal program by the Obama Administration. The Times writes that it is "not only about environmental impacts, but also getting fair value for taxpayers." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell appeared Tuesday before a U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee budget hearing to explain the path ahead. "The leasing price is put at about a \$1 per ton, with another \$1.50 for royalties," and coal buyers pay 20 to 40 times that amount, but "the expense to society for the cost of massive carbon emissions can run \$70 per ton."

SECRETARY JEWELL, SEN. MURKOWSKI SPAR OVER KING COVE ROAD. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee's chairwoman, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, on Tuesday grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "on a number of issues in – or not in – the president's budget, including the King Cove road." Murkowski asked Jewell "about a recent Army Corps of Engineers study of other transportation options from King Cove to the all-weather airport at Cold Bay." She also "asked if Jewell intended to live up to her promise to find a solution." Jewell responded: "Senator, I have no intention of leaving the people of King Cove hanging and I would be delighted to work with you on a marine-based solution that was identified in the Army Corps. report. As you and I have talked, I know it is unlikely we're going to agree on this point, I do not believe it is appropriate to run a road through this very sensitive wilderness area and wildlife refuge."

OREGON REFUGE OCCUPIERS PLEAD NOT GUILTY AS MORE INDICTMENTS LIKELY. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Johnson) reports Ammon Bundy and 15 other anti-government protesters from the armed occupation at an Oregon wildlife refuge pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges of conspiring to impede federal officers policing the compound. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Berman, Sottile, 8.98M) adds that several also “expressed concern” that they were being locked up, including Ryan Payne, who said he has been “led around in chains and shackles everywhere I go.” Meanwhile, federal agents investigating the refuge found explosives, firearms, and “significant amounts of human feces,” according to a filing last week from the US attorney for the District of Oregon. Investigators also found evidence that occupiers had cleared trenches and created a road on or near “grounds containing sensitive artifacts.”

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/24, 98K) reports that federal prosecutors said in a court filing this week that the government is likely to file a superseding indictment “that may add additional charges and defendants” early next month. It’s also possible that more indictments could emerge “based on what investigators find as they process evidence,” the filing said.

The [Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/24, Berger, 3.71M) reports that in Wednesday hearing with the occupiers, federal judge Anna Brown “urged prosecutors to file additional indictments as soon as possible.” Meanwhile, officials agreed to let attorneys of the defendants visit the refuge this week, although Brown rejected a request to allow Bundy to accompany them.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (2/24, 122K) reports the FBI said Tuesday it had finished collecting evidence at the refuge. Greg Bretzing, special agent in charge of the FBI in Oregon, said the “impacts from the armed occupation of the refuge will live on in this community for some time. Today, though, we are able to bring some sense of closure to this chapter of the story.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/24, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/24, Dubois, 285K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (2/24, 764K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (2/24, 180K), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (2/24, 103K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Weekly](#) (2/25), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/24, Levin, 3.71M), the [Raw Story](#) (2/24, 1.24M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, 442K), [TIME](#) (2/24, 18.01M), [Reuters](#) (2/25, Johnson), [Government Executive](#) (2/25, 41K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/25, Johnson, 6.31M).

FBI Completes Collection Of Evidence At Malheur. The [Greenwire](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the FBI on Tuesday “announced it has finished collecting evidence at the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and has returned control of the facility to the Fish and Wildlife Service.” However, “the headquarters will not be opened to the media or the public until the Justice Department and FWS decide it’s appropriate, the FBI said.”

Oregon Refuge Occupation Costs At Least \$3.3 Million. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (2/24, 173K) reports that “the 41-day occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge cost taxpayers at least \$3.3 million to cover the massive police response, a week of shuttered schools and a long list of supplies ranging from food to flashlight batteries, according to an Oregonian/OregonLive analysis of public and tribal budgets.” The figure “doesn’t include any figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the 187,700-acre bird sanctuary seized Jan. 2 by armed militants.”

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN TO VISIT MEXICO CITY FOR US-MEXICO ECONOMIC SUMMIT. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that Vice President Joe Biden will “lead the U.S. delegation to an annual U.S.-Mexico economic summit in Mexico City.” Joining Biden are Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (2/24, 4M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/24, 1.99M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (2/24, 1.12M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/24, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/24, Press, 8.98M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/24, 4.92M), [El Universal \(MEX\)](#) (2/24, 67K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (2/24, 404K).

HOUSE PANEL SCRUTINIZES “MITIGATION” POLICY. [Politico Pro](#) (2/24) reports that the Energy and Minerals Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources will “dig in” Wednesday “on a November presidential memorandum that encourages private investment in conservation while also requiring executive agencies to ‘avoid and then minimize harmful effects’ to the environment.” The subcommittee has called Christy Goldfuss, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, to explain the justification for why the memo creates “sweeping new statutory authority through unilateral executive action.” Goldfuss will be joined by

officials from the Fish and Wildlife and Forest services.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (2/24, Bastasch, 443K).

LWCF, IVORY AMENDMENTS FAIL TO GET INTO SPORTSMEN BILL VOTE. [E&E Daily](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the Rules Committee on Tuesday “agreed to send more than a dozen proposed amendments to the House floor on a controversial package to increase access to public lands for hunters and anglers that is headed for a vote tomorrow.” The article notes that “the amendments kept alive by the committee, however, largely ignore two of Democrats’ main objections to the ‘Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act,’ or H.R. 2406.” According to the article, “the minority party pushed to use the sportsmen’s bill as a vehicle to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” They also “argued that the sportsmen’s package should not include provisions to block Fish and Wildlife Service regulations that seek to address the elephant poaching crisis by restricting the domestic trade in ivory.”

COMMITTEE LEADERS POINT TO COMMON GOALS, BUT DISAGREE ON APPROACH. [E&E Daily](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that that “one year into his post as ranking member,” Rep. Raúl Grijalva’s office “reflects the sprawling mission of the House Natural Resources Committee, helmed by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah).” Described as “polar opposites,” the article says that “the two so far have dug into their respective comers, continuing the legacy of a panel that has much to say – on everything from public lands to tribal rights – but few bipartisan victories.” According to the article, “in recent interviews, both lawmakers sounded an optimistic note about this year, pointing to wildfire spending reform and a National Park Service centennial bill as ‘doable’ goals.” However, “Bishop is setting a high bar for any legislation: It must be a new approach that moves toward his idea of reform.”

CONSERVATION GROUP SCORES LAWMAKERS ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES. [The Hill](#) (2/25, Henry, 862K) reports that “the League of Conservation Voters slammed the Republican-led Congress’s climate work on Wednesday, citing a ‘trend of relentless attacks on environmental protections’ during the 2015 session of Congress.” According to the article, “in the group’s annual scorecard, based on 35 House votes and 26 Senate votes in 2015, the group gave House Republicans an average score of just 3 percent, and Senate Republicans a score of 5 percent.”

The [Empire State News \(NY\)](#) (2/24, 128) reports that Marcia Bystryn, President of the New York League of Conservation Voter, said, “It was a challenging year for the environment at the federal level in 2015, yet we were pleased to see bipartisan efforts to move key priorities such as a tough ban on plastic microbeads and an extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We were glad to see a number of Republican representatives in New York bucking their party and doing what’s right for the state and the country on renewable energy the fight against climate change.”

WILDLAND FIRE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS SCIENCE-BASED DATA COLLECTION BENEFITS. The [Yuma \(AZ\) News Now](#) (2/24, Newman) reports on an analysis of a major 2011 Texas wildland fire conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) “using a rigorous and scientifically based post-fire data collection approach, a system they believe will lead to improved defensive measures and strategies for significantly reducing structural damage and property loss.” The wildland urban interface (WUI) study “was conducted in collaboration with the Joint Fire Science Program (US Department of the Interior and the US Forest Service) and the Texas A&M Forest Service,” the article reports.

LAWYER AT FOREFRONT OF CONSERVATION MOVEMENT PASSES AWAY. The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (2/24, 6K) reports that “Henry Louis Diamond, a champion of land and water conservation for more than five decades in both public and private life, died of medical complications on February 21, 2016, at a hospital in Washington, D.C.” Diamond was “83 and had been ailing of Parkinson’s disease.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Times](#) (2/24, Roberts, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/24, Bames, 8.98M).

ADDITIONAL CONVERGE: THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS DESIGNATED IN CALIFORNIA. Additional coverage of the three new national monuments designated in California was provided by [EPNewswire](#) (2/24), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/24, 92K), the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (2/24, 110K), and the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (2/24, 180K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AN ISSUE IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE. Additional coverage that federal management has emerged as an issue for Western voters in the presidential

race was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/24, 48K), [Vice](#) (2/24, 1.65M), [Outdoor Life Magazine](#) (2/24, 5.1M), and [Salon](#) (2/24, 837K).

EPA ACCUSED OF AVOIDING RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOLD KING MINE DISASTER. Glenn G. Lammi, Chief Counsel, Legal Studies Division, for Washington Legal Foundation, writes at [Forbes](#) (2/24, 8.72M) that “over the past two weeks, several executives for a now-bankrupt chemical supply company in West Virginia received prison sentences for discharges of a pollutant and for failing to have a pollution-prevention plan.” Meanwhile, the House Committee on Natural Resources “released a report shedding further light on the role of Environmental Protection Agency employees and contractors in the release of toxic wastewater from a Silverton, Colorado mine on August 5, 2015.” Lammi claims that “the juxtaposition of the two cases amply demonstrates the double standard that prevails where federal government employees evade accountability for their actions while demanding full environmental compliance from everyone else.” He goes on to examine both of these cases in detail.

Empowering Native American Communities:

JUDGE APPROVES SETTLEMENT IN UNDERFUNDED FEDERAL CONTRACT LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (2/24, Hudetz, Press, 1.99M) reports that “a judge has approved a nearly \$1 billion settlement between the Obama administration and Native American tribes over claims the government shorted tribes for decades on contract costs to manage education, law enforcement and other federal services.” According to the article, “attorneys for the tribes learned Wednesday that a federal judge in Albuquerque approved the agreement, about five months after the Interior Department and tribal leaders announced they had reached a proposed \$940 million settlement in the class-action lawsuit.” Kevin Washburn, who recently resigned from his post as Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said, “It just shows the Obama administration has been working throughout two terms to stop litigating with tribes. Now, even in the last year of the administration, they’re getting this lengthy case settled.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/24, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.03M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/24, Services, 2.17M) the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/24, Mary Hudetz |, Ap, 8.98M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/24, Hudetz, 285K), the [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (2/24, 145K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/24, 290K), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (2/24, 534K), the [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (2/24, 163K), [ABC News](#) (2/24, 4M), the [Daily Mail](#) (2/24, 4.92M), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/25, Hudetz, 6.31M), [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\) Albuquerque, NM](#) (2/24, 88K), [Law360](#) (2/25, 22K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (2/24, 404K), and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\) Albuquerque, NM](#) (2/24, 88K).

HOUSE PASSES TRIBAL TRUST ASSET REFORM BILL. [Law360](#) (2/24, 22K) reports that the U.S. House of Representatives “unanimously passed a bill Wednesday to open a potential path for Native American tribes to manage their assets held in federal trust, with the bill’s backers pointing to purported mismanagement by the U.S. Department of the Interior.” H.R. 812, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, would “establish a pilot program allowing tribes to negotiate with the DOI to manage their own trust assets.”

BIA’S DECISION NOT TO DESIGNATE TRIBAL LEADER UPHELD. [Law360](#) (2/25, 22K) reports that the BIA “didn’t have to recognize anyone as the head of an Oklahoma tribe when it increased its contractual payout to the tribal government in 2014, the U.S. Department of the Interior Board of Indian Appeals ruled Tuesday in upholding a decision that angered several rival Native American leaders.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE ON SELF-DETERMINATION. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (2/24, 61K) reports that “Robert Underwood, president of the University of Guam, on Tuesday called on the White House to take the initiative in pushing for self-determination among the territories.” Underwood “represented Guam at a recent panel on self-determination held in Washington D.C.” According to the article, “much of the conversation focused on the power Congress has over the territories and what territories can still do to pursue decolonization.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Guam Daily Post](#) (2/24) and [Guam Daily Post](#) (2/24).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR OFFICIAL IN FBI CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION TIED TO LAS VEGAS FIRM HE SUPERVISED.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/25, 479K) reports that a BOR official "targeted in an FBI-led corruption investigation sat on the boards of two public companies tied to an accounting firm agents raided last week." The focus of the probe is "allegations of bribery and kickbacks related to a \$1 million financial audit of Hoover Dam." According to the article, "the accounting firm of LL Bradford & Co. won the contract last year, and the Bureau of Reclamation official, Fredrick 'Rick' Zaffarese-Leavitt, was among those who oversaw the work."

SEN. FEINSTEIN WORKING TO CLEAR PATH FOR DROUGHT BILL. [Politico Pro](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein's "drought measure may win precious floor time if it can clear the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee," she said Wednesday morning. According to the article, "Feinstein told the Association of California Water Agencies she has met with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and 'he seemed at the time to be favorable,' although she noted that the controversy around the Supreme Court vacancy could alter the political dynamics." However, "first she needs to move the measure through Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Energy and Natural Resources Committee – an effort complicated by the fact that no Californians sit on the panel and her fellow Californian Barbara Boxer is not at this point behind the bill."

HOUSE HEARING ON CALIFORNIA WATER MARKED BY TENSION. The [McClatchy](#) (2/24, 22K) reports that "the year's first congressional hearing on California's water crisis incited stern voices and familiar feuds Wednesday, but showed no sign of legislative progress." Instead, according to the article, "for two hours, lawmakers largely remained in trenches dug over many years as they lobbed shells at one another and, at times, the assembled witnesses." McClatchy reports, "in theory, the hearing on California's water supply might have illuminated the state's hydrological state of affairs and how it might be improved." However, "for much of the hearing, old plot lines and ancient political practices prevailed over crucial fact-finding."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (2/24, 358K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (2/24, 336K), and the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (2/24, 111K).

SOME CALIFORNIA FARMERS TO RECEIVE NO WATER BECAUSE OF EPA EFFORTS TO SAVE FISH.

The [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Richardson, 285K) reports some California farmers in the San Joaquin Valley may again receive zero surface water from the federal government because 162 billion gallons are expected to be diverted into the Pacific Ocean as part of EPA efforts to save the "nearly extinct" Delta smelt fish. At a hearing Wednesday before the House Natural Resources subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) said the water diversion hasn't lead to any success in rehabilitating the species, while several GOP committee members argued that efforts to save the fish were responsible for the ongoing regional drought. David Murillo, Bureau of Reclamation mid-Pacific regional director, acknowledged Delta smelt populations are still low, but said the diversion is necessary to comply with the ESA.

REP. KNIGHT INTRODUCES CLEAN WATER BILL. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/24, 431) reports that Rep. Steve Knight has "introduced legislation that would give a boost to efforts to clean the Eastern Santa Clara River Basin and provide fresh water to the Santa Clarita Valley." The Castaic Drinking Water Act would "authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to fund new water supply programs associated with communities impacted by perchlorate contamination plumes, like the Santa Clarita Valley, in order to restore lost local groundwater supply and decrease dependence on imported water supplies."

HUNGRY HORSE DAM PROJECT COULD COST \$200 MILLION. The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (2/25, 52K) reports that BOR officials are "conducting an environmental assessment on an estimated \$200 million in upgrades to Hungry Horse Dam expected to take nearly a decade." According to the article, "if all goes smoothly, project manager Chris Vick said, the work could begin in 2017 and wrap up as early as 2025." Vick said, "The units are pretty much reaching the end of their expected life. You want to get ahead of that before you start breaking down and you're in repair mode constantly."

WORKERS FIXING LEAK ON GRAND COULEE DAM. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (2/24, 41) reports that "those who were disappointed in the Laser Light Show last season because the Bureau of Reclamation couldn't spill water as a backdrop for the lasers will be happy to hear that things will be fixed in time for the show this spring." The BOR has "normally allowed a shallow spill across the face of the dam during the light show, adding a whitewater backdrop for the colored lasers," but "when a seal leak on one gate began leaking last year, it meant the lasers had only the dark concrete to dance on." According to Lynne Brouger, public affairs officer for Grand Coulee Dam, "work to repair the seal on drum gate three, the villain last year, will begin March 14, and will be finished by May 14."

PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON GLEN CANYON DAM. The [Lake Powell \(AZ\) Chronicle](#) (2/25, 7K)

reports that Interior agencies will “host two public meetings, February 22 and 25, in Flagstaff and Tempe and a public webinar, March 1, to answer questions and discuss the recently-released DOI draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed long-term environmental management plan (LTEMP) for Glen Canyon Dam.” According to the article, “these events are open to the general public and will include subject matter experts from both the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation who will be available to answer questions about the details of the draft EIS and the LTEMP.”

MEXICO PAYS DOWN RIO GRANDE WATER DEBT. The [Rio Grande Valley \(TX\) Morning Star](#) (2/25, 53K) reports that “Mexico has finally paid down its Rio Grande water debt to the United States, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission announced Wednesday.” According to IBWC United States-Mexico, “debt had accumulated over the course of a five-year water-delivery cycle that ended in late October.” The agency said that “since then, Mexico has delivered enough water to erase the shortfall, making the final delivery on Jan. 25.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DEEPWATER WIND EYES BROOKLYN SITE FOR OFFSHORE WIND BASE. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/24, Ryan, 2.92M) reports that Deepwater Wind LLC is “looking at a Brooklyn waterfront site as a staging ground as it pursues a potential project off the south shore of Long Island, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.” According to the source, “securing the waterfront site, the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, would be Deepwater’s first step toward building the wind farm that would generate clean power for New York City.” The article says that “the move is part of Deepwater’s efforts to make turbines more common in U.S. waters.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Crain’s New York Business](#) (2/24, 178K).

PERMIT PULLED FOR PALEN SOLAR PROJECT. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (2/25, 15K) reports that on Wednesday, the California Energy Commission “pulled the plug” on the Palen Solar project. The commissions said that “Palen Solar’s 2010 permit is no longer valid” and “that means any solar plant now proposed for the site needs to start at the beginning with permitting and environmental review, which may be less attractive as the price of urban solar continues to drop.”

NEVADA WIND ENERGY PROJECT FACES RESISTANCE. The [Daily Signal](#) (2/24, Mooney, 36K) reports a Federal District Court judge “ruled against the development of an 87-turbine, 200-megawatt wind farm in tiny Searchlight, Nevada, and the company behind the project joined with the US Interior Department to file an appeal.” It could take another year for the case to be decided, meanwhile the Searchlight Wind Energy Project remains stalled. Conservationists and some property rights activists oppose the project. Among them, town resident Judy Bundorf and others were behind the court challenge. They suggest the court’s rejection of “the Interior’s environmental impact and biological conclusions could set a legal precedent for future renewable energy initiatives,” the article reports.

CHANGES TO DRECP SUGGESTED. The [Barstow \(CA\) Desert Dispatch](#) (2/24, 279) editorializes that “the hard, necessary work” in assembling the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan will “pay off for generations of Americans if this plan does what it is supposed to do — protect desert lands that are state and national treasures while at the same time allocating other lands for renewable energy and mining interests.” It recognizes that “the BLM has been a good partner in this process and it is with that in mind that we suggest it consider these changes to the Phase 1 of the DRECP: 1) Ensure permanently protected conservation areas are not exposed to new mining development, just as places designated for mining or renewable energy projects will not be available for conservation; 2) Tweak the plan so it will provide specifics about how to withdraw National Conservation Lands from mining while honoring existing valid claims. 3) Include the Big Maria Mountains northwest of Blythe, Lower Centennial Flat north of China Lake and Bristol Valley east of Amboy in the National Conservation Lands.”

Onshore Energy Development:

APPEALS COURT DECLINES TO FAST-TRACK FRACKING APPEAL. [Politico Pro](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday “declined to fast track the Interior Department’s appeal of the preliminary injunction placed against its fracking rule, and is weighing putting the

appeal on ice temporarily until a permanent injunction is entered." According to the article, "in a short order, the two-judge panel asked Interior and various environmental groups instead to address the suggestion by industry groups to put the circuit-level appeal on hold until a lower court judge issues a permanent injunction." The parties have "until March 7 to file their response."

Additional coverage of the litigation was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 705) and [Law360](#) (2/24, 22K).

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT RECLAMATION BY MINING COMPANIES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/24, Yardley, 4.1M) reports that "amid a stunning collapse of the coal industry that has prompted some of the nation's largest mining companies to file for bankruptcy, there are new questions about how the giant holes dug in Wyoming and elsewhere across the West will be filled and who will pay to fill them." Last month, "prompted by a complaint from environmental groups, the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement challenged Wyoming regulators to show that two major companies that have both filed for bankruptcy in the last year, Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, have enough money to do the reclamation work they are obligated to do." And "in the weeks since then, following more complaints from environmental groups, the agency has made similar demands related to mines operated in Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Indiana and Illinois by another imperiled company, Peabody Energy."

Environmental Group To Sue Peabody Over Mine Cleanup Money. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports WildEarth Guardians gave Peabody Energy a required 60-day notification "that it intends to file a lawsuit claiming it is violating the federal mine reclamation law," arguing that the company "doesn't have the money to make good on its promise to clean up its mines in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming."

ALASKA GOVERNOR ENCOURAGING ANWR DEVELOPMENT. [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (2/25, Baird, 59K) reports Alaska Gov. Bill Walker is looking to encourage development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge after Royal Dutch Shell pulled out. Walker "penned national editorials decrying Federal restrictions that prohibit production in the oil-rich onshore coastal region in the North Slope," the article reports. In addition, Walker's plan includes a monthly spending of \$12,500 on a contract with oil and gas expert Andy Mack. Walker said Wednesday: Mack "sat with me last week in a meeting with Secretary (Sally) Jewell in her office to talk about offshore drilling to make sure we're still on the five-year plan, and we hope we are." He added, "Every time I've done anything on the North Slope regarding oil and gas, in some way I've reached out to Andy just because he has a unique knowledge in that regard." Walker continued, "We can be a little bit more aggressive with the president and Secretary (Sally) Jewell because we don't have projects elsewhere that could be impacted."

MURRAY ENERGY TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [Emergy County \(UT\) Progress](#) (2/24, 8K) reports that Ryan M. Murray, Vice President of Operations of Murray Energy Corporation, testified before the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial & Antitrust Law on the stream protection rule. The article pushes a statement by Murray on "the national destruction being caused" by the rule.

MCCARTHY: ENERGY INDUSTRY EMITS MORE METHANE THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Scheyder) reports EPA Administrator McCarthy on Wednesday defended her agency's efforts to reduce methane emissions, noting the US oil and natural gas industry emits more methane than had been previously thought. In remarks to IHS CERAWEEK, McCarthy said, "Methane emissions from existing sources in the oil and gas sector are substantially higher than we previously understood," adding, "The data confirm that we can and must do more on methane. ... By tackling methane emissions, we can unlock an amazing opportunity to better protect our environment for the future."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON CAPTURING NATURAL GAS WASTE. [Public News Service](#) (2/25, 306) reports that the BLM will "hold a public hearing in Lakewood next Tuesday, Mar. 1, on its proposal to reduce natural-gas waste on public lands."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CLIMATE ACTIVIST BIDS IN LEASE AUCTION. Additional coverage of the Participation of climate activist Terry Tempest Williams in a BLM lease auction was provided by the [Salt Lake City Weekly](#) (2/24, 116K).

TATE: CHINA, NOT OBAMA TO BLAME FOR US COAL COLLAPSE. Curtis Tate writes for the [McClatchy](#) (2/24, 22K) that according to an analysis by the Rhodium Group, China's slowing economy has played a role in the collapse of US coal. As China's economic growth has cooled, so has its demand for steel which is made using the metallurgical coal US coalfields supplied. "Although only 7 percent of the coal produced domestically

each year is used to make steel, it was selling at \$200 a ton five years ago, compared with \$50 a ton for steam coal, which is burned by power plants. Last year, metallurgical coal prices declined to \$85 a ton." Tate writes that China's decline has hurt coal more than Obama Administration policies.

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY DIRECTORS: RIGHT-TO-WORK LAWS WOULD REVIVE COAL STATES. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M), Julia Crigler and Jason Huffman, who are respectively the Kentucky and West Virginia state directors for Americans for Prosperity, argue that right-to-work legislation could benefit both states' economies that they say have been ravaged by the Obama Administration's war on coal. While West Virginia has completed its right-to-work law, the authors urge Kentucky's state legislators to enact a statewide legislation while a US appeals court decides on the validity of 12 Kentucky counties that moved ahead with right-to-work laws on their own.

Offshore Energy Development:

RALLY HELD AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING IN NEW JERSEY. [New Brunswick \(NJ\) Today](#) (2/24) reports that Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. have "actively joined in the campaign to fight the oil industry from exploiting the Atlantic Ocean through offshore drilling." They "rallied in Asbury Park on January 31, along with...over 100 local leaders, environmentalists and tourist groups to raise awareness about the negative impacts of drilling in the Atlantic on the economy and environment of New Jersey."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: STUDY SHOWS IMPACT OF BP OIL SPILL ON DEEPWATER SHIPWRECKS. Additional coverage of the study showing the impact of the BP oil spill on sea life near shipwrecks was provided by [Newsweek](#) (2/24, 693K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/25, Procopiou, 6.31M).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, COUNTY OFFICIALS MEET TO DISCUSS CONTROL OF WILD BURRO HERDS. [Cronkite News](#) (2/24) reports that "federal and county officials agreed after face-to-face meetings in Washington this week that 'there is a problem' with overpopulation of wild burros in Arizona's western counties and that something needs to be done." According to the article, "Mohave County supervisors who attended the meetings called them an important first step toward finding a long-term, humane solution, with options that were discussed ranging from adoption to contraception to, ultimately, culling the herd." Moss and fellow Supervisor Hildy Angius were joined by supervisors from Yuma and La Paz counties in meetings Tuesday with officials from the BLM and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (2/25, 27K).

EXPANSION OF UTAH MILITARY TESTING RANGE CRITICIZED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/24, Maffly, 388K) reports that "a fresh proposal for expanding the Utah Test and Training Range has hit Congress, this time identifying mineral-rich federal lands to be traded with the state as well as giving Utah easements to hundreds of routes in Juab, Tooele and Box Elder Counties." The Tribune explains that "on Thursday, the House Natural Resources Committee will hear the new bill, formally known as the Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act." Utah Sen. Jerry Stevenson recently told a legislative panel, "The grazing lands will stay there in the name of Bureau of Land Management. ... It will only be used for flyovers. There won't be anything dropped. The bombing range won't be expanded, per se. Ranching activities will continue." Meanwhile, according to the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, "the BLM lands to be acquired by the state hold minerals that have already been explored." However, environmental groups have expressed opposition.

UTAH CONGRESSMAN TAKES AIM AT FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/24, Maffly, 388K) reports that "Rep. Mike Noel's latest effort to rein in federal law enforcement in rural Utah sailed through a legislative committee Wednesday." The Tribune says he "alleges the Bureau of Land Management has become an unbearable police presence, encroaching on the authority of elected county sheriffs and intimidating local residents." The Tribune explains, "His HB391 would help ensure that federal land agencies rely on local law enforcement to the maximum extent possible, as required under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976, Noel told the House Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality, which

unanimously advanced the bill to the House floor." Noel also complained about a lack of cooperation between local and Federal officials, "It's a real problem. We have one individual who is a bad actor. The governor's office asked he be removed, that hasn't happened," referring to Dan Love, the BLM's special agent in charge of Utah and Nevada.

RICHFIELD REAPER: PUBLIC LAND USE NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED. In an editorial, the [Richfield \(UT\) Reaper](#) (2/24, 102K) says that at the Utah Livestock Grazing Rights Conference "ranchers who are tired of allotments being reduced on federal land and competing with big game for forage listened, asked questions and in some instances grumbled." The Reaper says that the "pressure to close off established uses of public lands has...prompted the state of Utah to pursue an endeavor to force the federal government to cede the land it controls to the state." The paper concludes that "while this probably won't work, hopefully it will be a push to get more local control and input in the management of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands."

WRITER CLAIMS "BLM POLICING, POLITICS ARE OVERZEALOUS." Robert Miller writes at the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/24, 198K) that "back in the early 1990s...I drew the wrath of the Bureau of Land Management when I authored a news article that was headlined, 'This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land, It Was Intended for You and Me.'" The says that the BLM was "founded by Congress under the Taylor Grazing Act is administered under the U.S. Department of Interior, along with the U.S. Forest Service," and that over the years it has "continued to grow and garner more political power, and the time-honored Smokey Bear image gave way to gun-toting federal agents." He says that government overreach led to the "Sagebrush Rebellion" and "the recent confrontations at the Bundy ranch in Nevada and Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." He concludes that "such confrontations clearly are not the solution" and that "only a political rebellion sufficient to garner the attention of Congress will halt the zeal of these bureaucrats."

CONGRESS URGED TO PROTECT WILD HORSES. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, 518K), Suzanne Roy, Campaign Director, American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, writes that "buried in President's proposed 2017 budget is a provision" that allows the BLM to strip wild horses "of their protected status and turn them over to state and local authorities, which could then easily send them to 'kill plants' in Mexico with no oversight whatsoever." According to Roy, "it's the latest in a long series of BLM shirking its responsibility to do as Congress and the American people have long demanded – humane preservation of wild horses and burros on their native range." She urges Congress "to protect America's wild horses and burros from BLM brutality."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR DAN ASHE INTERVIEWED. [DailyMotion](#) (2/24) posted a video of an interview with FWS Director Dan Ashe. Ashe gave an overview of the his responsibilities and issues facing the agency.

28 CITIES AWARDED FWS GRANT. [KRCR-TV](#) Redding, CA (2/25, 32K) reports that "the city of Arcata was one of 28 cities in the nation to get a Fish and Wildlife Service Grant." According to the article, "the \$475,000 grant will be used to specifically improve flooding infrastructure, fish and wildlife habitats and hydrology at Jacoby Creek."

PROJECT ANNOUNCED TO RAISE ELEVATION OF SACHUEST POINT MARSH. The [Newport \(RI\) Patch](#) (2/24, 1K) reports that "work is underway to strengthen and restore critical marsh habitat at the Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge as the coastal sanctuary for birds and fish is under increasing climate-based threats." The FWS and The Nature Conservancy on Tuesday announced "a \$1.98 million cooperative agreement to begin restoration efforts and deploy a technique known as 'thin-layer deposition' to replenish the estuary and actually raise its elevation by strategically spreading sand." According to the article, "the project will concentrate on 11 acres of marsh to raise the elevation through the TLD process, which essentially makes up for what civilization has taken from the marsh: the natural cycle of sand being deposited into the estuary by rivers that have been dammed and drained by Aquidneck Island's population over hundreds of years."

NEW HEADQUARTERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BIG MUDDY WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Columbia \(MO\) Missourian](#) (2/24, 21K) reports that a new headquarters for the Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge "under construction across from Rocheport will soon allow" Tim Haller, "the refuge's visitor services manager, to replace the mobile exhibit and its miniature river with the real Big Muddy." According to the article, "the headquarters will have administrative space, and in 12 to 18 months, a classroom and an educational area with exhibits about the refuge." The article notes that "an overlook will also be built on the property."

CONTINUING COVERAGE: OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING DEATH OF 13 BALD EAGLES ON A MARYLAND FARM. [NBC News](#) (2/24, 3.58M) reports that “the reward for information in the ominous deaths of 13 bald eagles increased Wednesday to \$25,000, jumping up from the previous reward of \$10,000.” The Center for Biological Diversity is “offering up to \$15,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case of 13 bald eagles that were found dead on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.” The article notes that “the pledge from the Arizona-based non-profit, along with previous contributions from the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, the Phoenix Wildlife Center Inc. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pushes the total reward to \$25,000.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Smithsonian](#) (2/24, 6.89M), [RT](#) (2/24, 350K), and [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (2/24, 106K).

MARINE MAMMAL BIOLOGISTS VISIT SAINT LAWRENCE ISLAND. [KNOM-FM](#) Nome, AK (2/24) reports that “a team of biologists travelled to Saint Lawrence Island on Wednesday to consult with local walrus hunters in Savoonga and Gambell.” Jim MacCracken, who heads the Alaska program for marine mammals management with the FWS, says “biologists are eager to collect traditional knowledge from hunters and community members.” According to the article, “some of that information will help the group as they develop an assessment of the Pacific walrus population as part of a process outlined under the Endangered Species Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K).

NEW MEXICO GAME BOARD TO HEAR TURNER WOLF REQUEST. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/25, 290K) reports that the New Mexico Game Commission will hold “a special meeting Friday in Albuquerque to hear a request by the Turner Endangered Species Fund to import five Mexican Wolves and temporarily hold them at Ladder Ranch in southern New Mexico.” The Turner Endangered Species Fund, the FWS and the Mexican government “want to hold the wolves at Ladder Ranch before they are exported to a facility in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, for eventual release into the wild in Mexico.”

ENDANGERED ANIMALS AT IOWA ZOO SUFFER CAPTIVITY, POOR CONDITIONS. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, Wells, 518K) reports on the Cricket Hollow Zoo in Manchester, Iowa, which offers tourists access to animals in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions and is facing a lawsuit by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), filed Feb. 11. The article reports “Judge Jon Scoles issued an order that the zoo must transfer its endangered species to facilities that can meet the animals’ needs,” the article reports, adding “This victory sets a groundbreaking legal precedent for animals and will be life-changing for the four tigers and three lemurs who were the subject of the suit.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR PRAIRIE CHICKEN CONSERVATION PROGRAM. In an op-ed for the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 421K), Adam Riggsbee, president of RiverBank Ecosystems in Austin, and Kirk Williams, a member of Williams Family Ranch & Mineral, write that “in the almost two years since the lesser prairie chicken was added to America’s endangered species list, we have watched its recovery program — the rangewide plan, a five-state government collaborative — struggle to meet federal government standards.” They claim that “U.S. Department of Justice filings during ongoing federal district court litigation in Texas show fatal flaws in the program.” While they “acknowledge the plan is unprecedented in its scale and degree of interstate collaboration, its challenges are persistent and potentially unassailable.” The authors argue that “without immediate intervention, the lesser prairie chicken population is unlikely to recover.”

National Park Service:

NPS CERTIFIES 2015 VISITATION NUMBERS AT 307 MILLION. The [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (2/24, 13K) reports that last week, the NPS “certified 2015 national park visitation at more than 307 million.” The agency also released its popular Top 10 list of the most visited national park sites.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “The popularity of national parks is well known, but last year’s numbers really are extraordinary. As the National Park Service celebrates its 100th year, we’re preparing to welcome more visitors than ever including a new generation of park supporters and advocates who are discovering their own national park adventures.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/25, 290K).

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING FOUNDER OF A.M.E. Church Unveiled. The [Afro American](#) (DC)

(2/25, 33K) reports that "Sylvia Cyrus, ASALH executive director; Ronald A. Stroman, deputy postmaster general, USPS; Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, president of ASALH and Jon Jarvis, National Park Service director unveiled Feb. 20 the commemorative stamp of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the A.M.E. Church."

HOUSE PASSES KENNESAW MOUNTAIN PARK, MLK SITE EXPANSION BILLS. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/24, 1.1M) reports that the House has passed a bill that would expand Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. The measure would "add eight acres to the park, as well as a historic, two-bedroom farmhouse that once served as Union General Oliver O. Howard's headquarters." The House also passed a measure that would "designate the Martin Luther King Jr. Historic Site as a national historic park."

SEN FEINSTEIN REINTRODUCES LEGISLATION THAT COULD EXPAND JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/24, 98K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein has "reintroduced legislation that could expand Joshua Tree National Park and attempts to balance conservation with off-road recreation and renewable energy development in the California desert." The measure is "similar to a bill the California Democrat introduced last February but it leaves out 1.8 million acres of California desert that are part of three national monuments – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains – that President Barack Obama designated earlier this month." According to the article, "remaining in the bill are provisions that create five off-road vehicle areas, designate 230,000 acres as wildlife areas, and add more than 43,000 acres to the Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks – 39,000 acres to the former and 4,500 acres to the latter. Joshua Tree is currently about 800,000 acres."

INCREASE IN VISITORS EXPECTED AT FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL. The [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (2/24, 40K) reports that the NPS is "estimating that more than 400,000 people will visit the Flight 93 National Memorial in 2016." According to Deputy Superintendent Keith Newlin, "that is based on numbers from 2015, when 86,000 toured in September and October alone." Newlin said, "There's a great interest in the story. People may come and learn more about the story of the heroes of Flight 93."

WYOMING SENATORS SEEK TO SELL TWO PARK PARCELS AT ONCE. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (2/24, 1K) reports that "a bill that encourages the Department of the Interior to deal for the two sections of Wyoming-owned land in Grand Teton National Park with a single acquisition has passed the Wyoming Senate." According to the article, "during Tuesday's session Wyoming's 30 senators unanimously supported Senate File 88, 'State lands within Grand Teton National Park.'" The article notes that "included in the legislation is an amendment that would strip potentially value-sapping easements from a square-mile section of land near Kelly if the federal government doesn't obtain both 1-square-mile parcels at once."

NPS SEEKS TO PRESERVE YOSEMITE NAMES. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (2/24, 3.37M) reports that "just days before Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel and other famed sites at the park lose their names to an ugly trademark battle that has left visitors nationwide seething, subtle moves by the National Park Service suggest there's hope the names won't be gone for long."

NPS EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR GRAND CANYON BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT. The [AP](#) (2/24, 285K) reports that the NPS has "extended a public comment period on a plan to manage the backcountry areas of the Grand Canyon." The article notes that "one of the most significant parts of the proposals is to have hikers who venture more than 5 miles down the most popular trails obtain a day-use permit and pay a minimum \$5 fee." The proposal also "addresses more remote areas of the park and relatively new recreation activities such as canyoneering, rim-to-rim excursions and backpacking trips that require short travel on the Colorado River." The public comment period now ends April 4.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/24, 290K) and the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (2/24, 3K).

CAVERNS ELEVATOR REPAIR TARGET DATE PUSHED TO MAY. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (2/24, 18K) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park "had hoped to have a temporary solution to its lack of elevators at the park by March, but that date is now looking more like May." Park public affairs specialist Valerie Gohlke said, "We were hoping to have them back up and running by spring break." But "Gohlke said the process is long and complicated and the March date was only a projection." According to the article, "the new goal is to have the freight elevators ready for passengers by Memorial Day weekend, which Gohlke said is one of the park's busiest times of the year."

FIRST YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY SPOTTED OUT OF ITS DEN. The [AP](#) (2/25, 285K) reports that "Yellowstone National Park has reported its first grizzly bear sighting of 2016." According to the article, "park

officials spotted the male grizzly bear Tuesday near the Nez Perce Creek drainage during a wolf survey flight." Park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett says "the timing of this year's first grizzly sighting has come a little earlier than average."

NEW PLAY DEPICTS HOW BOSTON MASSACRE HELPED SHAPE AMERICA. The AP (2/25, Herbaugh) reports that the Boston Massacre has "inspired a new stage play." "Blood on the Snow" will be "performed in May in the very same room where the colonists agonized over their options and how to heal their shattered town, bringing to life the history that played out in the raw aftermath of the slaughter." The play, "a production of the Bostonian Society in partnership with the National Park Service, tells the story of how Massachusetts Gov. Thomas Hutchinson managed to forestall more violence between British soldiers and colonists on the day following the attack."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE". Additional coverage of "National Parks Adventure" was provided by the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (2/23, 85K) and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (2/24, 591K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DEATH VALLEY'S "SUPER BLOOM" OF WILDFLOWERS. Additional coverage of the "super bloom" of wildflowers at Death Valley was provided by [CNN](#) (2/24, 3.96M), [NPR](#) (2/24, 1.81M), and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, 442K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YOSEMITE "FIREFALL" FALLS PHENOMENON. Additional coverage of the "firefall" phenomenon at Yosemite was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (2/24, Schlossberg, Subscription Publication, 12.03M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS PROPOSES NEW DOG-WALKING REGULATIONS AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. Additional coverage that the NPS has "released its proposed rules for walking dogs in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area" was provided by the [Half Moon Bay \(CA\) Review](#) (2/24, 22K).

CONGRESS URGED TO FUND MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS. In his column for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/25, 402K), Jay Evensen writes that the "nation's parks are \$11.9 billion behind on their honey-do lists, and that is five times more than the amount Congress gives the service each year." According to Evensen, "the most viable solution...is to take the millions the government collects each year from offshore oil and gas royalties, a part of which goes to the Parks Service, and devote more of it to maintenance than to acquiring more land." He also says that "another intriguing idea is to sell federal land that is isolated, difficult to maintain or serves no real federal purpose, and use that money to fix parks."

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS WARN VIRUS THREATENS SALAMANDERS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Fears, 8.98M) reports that "when the feared virus known as Bsal lands on the backs of newts and salamanders destined for the pet trade, scientists predict that lots of wild salamanders are expected to die." According to the article, "this isn't some unfounded alarm for scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey, who wrote a report published recently in Royal Society Open Science." In a statement announcing the study, the USGS said, "Bsal is decimating wild salamander populations in Europe and could emerge in the U.S. through the captive amphibian trade."

Top National News:

REPUBLICAN NEVADA GOVERNOR FLOATED AS POTENTIAL OBAMA HIGH COURT NOMINEE. While network television coverage of the ongoing partisan battle over filling the Supreme Court vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia was relatively light, online and print coverage are very heavy, with many reports focusing on a [SCOTUSblog](#) post by the President in which he discussed the criteria he will consider before naming a nominee. Also garnering significant attention are the President's criticism of Senate Republicans and his prediction that they will relent in their refusal to hold hearings or votes on his nominee, as well as word that Nevada's Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval is being considered as a potential nominee.

The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Debonis, Eilperin, 8.98M) cites "two people familiar with the selection process" who say Sandoval "is among the Supreme Court candidates under White House consideration." The Post says Sandoval would be "unconventional pick" which "runs counter to Obama's emphasis on taking a long view of who deserves to sit on the nation's highest court." The AP (2/24, Jalonick) notes that the choice of a Republican

"would be seen as an attempt by President Barack Obama to break the Senate GOP blockade of any of his choices." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, Thompson, 442K) said a Sandoval nomination "could serve as a compromise position, if the GOP were amenable to compromise," but Senate Republicans "have repeatedly insisted they will not act on any possible appointments until a new president is elected."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/24, story 5, 1:50, Holt, 7.86M) said the vetting of Sandoval "seems designed to put GOP senators in an uncomfortable position." Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (2/24, Davis, Herszenhom, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) notes that the leak of Sandoval's name "appeared to be a political feint," calling Sandoval "a candidate seemingly calculated to demonstrate the depths of Republican obstreperousness." According to the [New York Post](#) (2/24, Schultz, 2.92M), the President "is likely counting on bad optics of senators rejecting a fellow Republican to soften the resistance to confirmation hearings."

In an analysis on its website, [TIME](#) (2/24, Rhodan, Beckwith, 18.01M) said there are "a number of reasons why Sandoval would be uniquely positioned to break a Senate Republican boycott." Among them, he is a "former US District Court judge," who was "nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by a 89-0 vote in 2005." In addition, Sandoval, who is "popular in his home state," would "bring diversity" as well as "experience in elected office." Sandoval also "supports abortion rights," a position which "would be a deal-breaker for President Obama and Democratic Senators if he were not." While "none of this means Sandoval will be picked or even confirmed," it "does explain why his name is being floated." [USA Today](#) (2/24, Wolf, 5.45M) notes that "Sandoval's ultimate nomination is considered unlikely," but the President "could gain credibility among some Republicans and independents for agreeing to consider someone from the opposite party."

In his [SCOTUSblog](#) (2/24, 2K) post, the President wrote that he takes his constitutional duty to appoint Supreme Court justices seriously and will fulfill it "in the weeks ahead." The President went on to provide "some spoiler-free insights into what I think about before appointing the person who will be our next Supreme Court Justice," noting that the nominee "will be eminently qualified," and will be "someone who recognizes the limits of the judiciary's role." The President added that he will seek someone who "views the law not only as an intellectual exercise, but also grasps the way it affects the daily reality of people's lives in a big, complicated democracy, and in rapidly changing times."

A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says the President's post "was more notable for the forum than for its message." The President has "a knack for picking unconventional places to press his agenda," and SCOTUSblog, "an indispensable resource for students of the Supreme Court, is a particularly apt forum for this post." The Times calls the post "a valuable summary of what Mr. Obama is looking for in a justice" and goes on to provide "some highlights, translated." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/24, Doming, 289K) casts the SCOTUSblog post as part of the White House's "two-pronged strategy" which consists of "relying on allies to shame the Republicans for their obstruction" while showing the President "in high-minded deliberations over the next nominee."

[ABC World News](#) (2/24, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley are "now agreeing to meet with President Obama to discuss nominees." Meanwhile, the President said Wednesday he hopes and expects the Senate to consider his nominee. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/24, story 6, 1:40, Crawford, 5.08M) said the President "started the hard sell for his eventual supreme court nominee, predicting Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will cave."

The [New York Daily News](#) (2/24, Edelman, 3.7M) says the President "defiantly vowed to choose someone to fill the vacancy in the 'weeks ahead' and blasted the GOP's latest ploy as a product of its leaders bowing to the extremists within their party." [Reuters](#) (2/24, Mason, Cowan) reports the President said Republicans would risk a public backlash if they prevented the confirmation of a qualified nominee for political reasons.

The [New York Times](#) (2/24, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the President predicted McConnell and other Republicans "would not be able to sustain their refusal to acknowledge or act on his nominee, adding that in his private conversations with some of them on the matter, it was clear to him that they were not comfortable with that stance." [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 5.45M) similarly says the President "said the GOP does not seem completely committed to the blockade," telling reporters, "They're pretty sheepish about it," and the [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Boyer, 285K) reports the President said McConnell and other Republicans "don't seem fully committed to their stand."

A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says while Republicans "seem certain that they can hold together, and have assured conservative groups that they will not relent once Mr. Obama chooses a nominee," Democrats "are intent on trying to shake Republicans off their position, which

Democrats view as unsustainable." In a separate story, the [New York Times](#) (2/24, Davis, Herszenhom, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that the "entire Democratic power structure on Wednesday mobilized to break through Republican opposition and clear a path" for the President to name a nominee.

In his [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) column, Dana Milbank says while Democrats "have no authority to force the Republican majority to vote on Obama's eventual nominee, or even to hold a hearing," they "think they can make Republicans pay a political price for their reflexive decision not to hold a hearing for an Obama nominee." [Politico](#) (2/24, Gass, 1.07M) said the President "and his congressional allies lashed out at Republicans on Wednesday" over their position. On the Senate floor, Minority Leader Reid "rant[ed] against...Grassley's 'ineptness.'" Sen. Chris Coons "ripped into the GOP for its 'elementary-school response.'" Meanwhile, the President told reporters that "Republicans are approaching the process with flawed logic, noting he finds it ironic that Republicans who say they are constitutional conservatives are fighting him."

On its website, [NPR](#) (2/24, Johnson, 1.81M) quotes the President as saying, "I'm going to do my job, I'm going to nominate someone...and let the American people decide as to whether that person is qualified." According to NPR, this means the court "could operate without a full complement of nine members for a year or more, the equivalent of two terms of the Supreme Court." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/24, Memoli, 4.1M) says the President called the GOP position "so unprecedented it risked the integrity of the US judicial system."

However, an AP (2/24, Lederman, Hennessey) analysis notes that while the President "insists he'll put forward an 'outstanding candidate' no matter what the GOP says, the White House is hard-pressed to offer a convincing scenario in which that person gets confirmed." The nominee "will become the face of well-financed, high-intensity, election-year campaigns both for and against that will rage across the country" and will "have little ability to influence the debate and even less control over how the chapter plays out."

Ayotte, Portman Say They Will Not Meet With Obama Nominee. In what [Politico](#) (2/24, Everett, Robillard, 1.07M) called "the latest sign that even at-risk Republicans are digging in behind...McConnell as his Senate majority hands in the balance," Sens. Kelly Ayotte and Rob Portman "said they would not meet with a Supreme Court nominee." Ayotte said in an interview Wednesday "in terms of the advise and consent process, I believe we should wait to have the people weigh in on who the next president is. And to weigh in, obviously, based on who...that next president will nominate," Portman also said "he wouldn't meet with a potential Obama pick," noting, "Not if we're not going to move forward."

Johnson, Grassley Defend Senate GOP's Position; USA Today And NYTimes Disagree. Meanwhile, Sen. Ron Johnson defended the Senate GOP's position, "saying the rejection of Obama's pick in the GOP Senate is a foregone conclusion," the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (2/24, Sommerhauser, 264K) reports. Speaking at an event in Madison, Wisconsin Wednesday, Johnson "cit[ed] Obama's past nominees to the high court, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor," and argued "there's no reason to believe he and his Senate GOP colleagues could approve the next one." Said Johnson, "He's got a track record. We know the type of justice he would appoint. We wouldn't confirm that individual. ... Not acting is also withholding our consent, and that's within our right." The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/24, Stein, 743K) says Johnson noted that "the next nominee could flip the majority of the court from conservative to liberal," and "said that he or she would affect rulings on issues ranging from firearms to free speech." Therefore, he argued, it is "reasonable to leave the appointment and confirmation to the next president and next US Senate." Johnson's comments drew fire from former Sen. Russ Feingold, who is challenging him in the November election.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (2/24, 5.45M), Grassley also defends the GOP's decision, saying it is "based on the principle that in an American democracy, in a divided nation, the people should be empowered to weigh in on such a consequential decision." While the President "has the constitutional authority to nominate a justice in an election year, which he intends to do," the Senate "has the equal constitutional authority to consent or withhold consent," and "history is on our side" because "not since 1888 has an election-year nominee been confirmed during a divided government to fill a vacancy occurring in the same year."

However, an accompanying [USA Today](#) (2/24, 5.45M) editorial blasts the GOP's stance, saying their "outright obstructionism represents a new low in this long-running conflict." USA Today says if the President's nominee "has impeccable credentials, falls within the broad judicial mainstream and demonstrates a healthy regard for legal precedent, then he or she deserves hearings and an up-or-down vote. Anything less is putting politics above constitutional principle." A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial is also critical of Republicans, saying they "apparently believe they can profit by creating a political crisis that the nation has never seen before." The Times argues McConnell "seems to have lost touch with reality and the Constitution," adding that while the "Republican spin machine is working overtime to rationalize this behavior," it

is “panic masquerading as strength.”

Salon’s Daley: Obama Could Have Filled Vacancy With A Recess Appointment. In a piece for [Salon](#) (2/24, 837K), editor-in-chief David Daley argues “for several days last week,” the Administration could have “play[ed] a more aggressive game if they wanted to fill Scalia’s seat this year” by making “a recess appointment that could have replaced Scalia through the end of this Senate next January.” However, the President “actively decided to let that window close.” Noting that the President “seemed...to recognize the nature of the opposition heading into this final year of his presidency” as he “let loose a torrent of executive orders on immigration, gun control and climate change,” Daley asks “why the return to the soaring historic rhetoric about ‘advise and consent’ and not a recess appointment, when he had the chance, to deal with the entirely predictable GOP blockade?”

Scalia Died Among Members Of An Exclusive Fraternity Of Hunters. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Brittain, Horwitz, 8.98M) reports on Scalia’s final days, noting he died “among high-ranking members of an exclusive fraternity for hunters called the International Order of St. Hubertus, an Austrian society that dates back to the 1600s.” The Post provides details on the “the worldwide, male-only society” whose members “wear dark-green robes emblazoned with a large cross and the motto ‘Deum Diligite Animalia Diligentes,’ which means ‘Honoring God by honoring His creatures,’” but notes that it is “unclear what, if any, official association Scalia had with the group.”

POLL: TRUMP SEIZES LEAD IN OKLAHOMA, HOLDS NINE-POINT EDGE. [The Hill](#) (2/24, Richardson, 862K) reported that a Cole Hargrave Snodgrass and Associates survey of 400 Oklahoma likely Republican primary voters, taken Feb. 22-23, shows Donald Trump leading with 29%, followed by Sen. Marco Rubio at 21%, Sen. Ted Cruz at 20%, Ben Carson at 6%, and Gov. John Kasich at 5%. The Hill added that Trump has gained “5 points since the last version the poll two weeks ago, while Cruz has dropped 5 points over that same span.” Oklahoma holds its presidential primaries on March 1.

LYNCH: LAW PROHIBITS SENDING GITMO DETAINEES TO US TERRITORY. The [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Dinan, 285K) reports Attorney General Lynch said Wednesday that federal law prevents President Obama from sending Guantanamo Bay detainees to US territory. Lynch said, “That is the state of the law.” The Attorney General added that her understanding is that the President’s plan, released Tuesday, represents a “goal” and is not an effort to circumvent previous legislation.

USA Today Analysis: Obama Could Empty Most Of Prison Without Closing It. A [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 5.45M) analysis says “one often-overlooked part of the closure plan could greatly reduce the number of detainees” at the facility by transferring 35 prisoners already approved for release to other countries, and determining the similar eligibility of 46 others. USA Today says “that would leave only a handful of hard cases subject to indefinite detention and 19 currently in some phase of having their case adjudicated by a military commission.” That impact, according to USA Today, “could further put legal, political and diplomatic pressure on Congress.”

Ryan: House Republicans Preparing Legal Action If Needed. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Comwell) reports House Speaker Ryan said Republican lawmakers are preparing legal action in the event Obama attempts to transfer the detainees. Ryan said, “We are making legal preparations if the president tries to break the law.” Ryan added, “And what boggles my mind is that the president is contemplating directing the military to knowingly break the law.”

Powell Reiterates Support For Closing Gitmo. [Politico](#) (2/24, Gass, 1.07M) reports former Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday “reiterated his support for closing” Gitmo, saying the facility has “always been slowly closing over the last 10 years.” Powell said on MSNBC that senators such as John McCain and Lindsey Graham should urge Obama to present specifics and then assess the plan. Powell said, “As secretary of state, Guantanamo was a heavy load to carry as I went around the world talking about human rights, talking about how you treat prisoners, talking about how you can’t have indefinite detention or the use of torture to get things out of people.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*Senate Republicans Lose Their Minds On A Supreme Court Seat.*” A [New York Times](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial is critical of Senate Republicans’ position on the President’s nomination to fill the Supreme Court seat left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, saying they “apparently believe they can profit by creating a political crisis that the nation has never seen before.” The

Times argues Majority Leader McConnell "seems to have lost touch with reality and the Constitution," adding that while the "Republican spin machine is working overtime to rationalize this behavior," it is "panic masquerading as strength."

"Governors Unite In The War Against Opioids." The [New York Times](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorializes that with the "epidemic of drug overdose deaths" in the US, it is "important" that the National Governors Association plans to create guidelines that would restrict how and under what circumstances painkillers could be prescribed. The Times also says President Obama's funding request last month for treatment and prevention programs is "reasonable, given the size of the national [opioid] problem."

"A Bad Effort In Congress To Thwart States On Food Labels." A [New York Times](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial says it is a "bad idea" for Congress to "make it harder for consumers to know what is in their food by prohibiting state governments from requiring the labeling of genetically modified foods." The Times says that while "polls have found that about 90 percent of Americans favor mandatory labels for genetically modified foods," the "only thing these lawmakers seem to favor consistently is protecting corporate interests."

WASHINGTON POST. "The Fight Between Apple And Law Enforcement Should Not Be Left To The Courts." The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) editorializes the conflict between Apple and law enforcement over access to protected data "is not a question that should be left to magistrate judges ruling in the heat of a case." The Post says Rep. Michael McCaul and Sen. Mark Warner's efforts to draft a bill establishing "a national commission on security and technology challenges in the digital age" may seem like "an underwhelming response," but "the alternative is courts drawing the lines." A court decision, according to the Post, "may be worse for Apple and other tech firms than at least trying to find some way to thread the data security needle." The Post says if "another major terrorist attack" occurs in the US, "the debate could quickly turn much less favorable to Silicon Valley."

"GOP Leaders, You Must Do Everything In Your Power To Stop Trump." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) says, "The unthinkable is starting to look like the inevitable: Absent an extraordinary effort from people who understand the menace he represents, Donald Trump is likely to" win the GOP presidential nomination. The Post adds that "history will not look kindly on GOP leaders who fail to do everything in their power to prevent a bullying demagogue from becoming their standard bearer."

"Will The DC Council Get Serious About Reforming The City's Pay-To-Play Culture?" The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 8.98M) editorializes for the DC Council to "give fair consideration" to DC Attorney General Karl Racine's comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation that would end a loophole allowing unlimited donations to PACs outside election years, and more importantly would prohibit campaign contributions "from those seeking or conducting significant business with the District." The Post adds that the "irony" of Racine's current "vigorous fundraising to retire his election debt" is "yet another reason the rules need to be stiffened."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Apple Goes To The Supreme Court." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes the Supreme Court should agree to hear the antitrust case involving the Justice Department's accusation that Apple conspired with publishing houses to increase e-book prices. The Journal says that by taking the case, the court can show the law permits the innovation and new business models that are necessary to grow the economy.

"Exonerating Rick Perry." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes in support of a Texas court's decision to dismiss the criminal case against former Gov. Rick Perry, arguing that the charges against Perry were baseless and politically motivated.

"Trump And The Also-Rans." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says that as Donald Trump continues to march toward the GOP nomination, his primary foes continue to attack each other rather than the billionaire. The Journal says that if Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio continue this strategy and don't take specific aim at Trump, the billionaire may well clinch the GOP nomination by the middle of next month.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

US Warns Banks Off Russian Bonds
Ted Cruz Faces Must-Win Challenge In Texas
How Islamic State's Secret Banking Network Prospers
The Big New Threat To Oil Prices: A Glut Of Gasoline

New York Times:

Rubio Has Party, But Not Time, On His Side
Candidate Often At Odds With Orthodoxy
Crackdowns On Free Speech Rise In A Europe Wary Of Terror
Security 'Arms Race' As Apple Is Said To Harden iPhone Tech
Shadow Of Human Rights Abuse Follows Contender In FIFA Vote
Supreme Court Abortion Case Seen As Turning Point For Clinics

Washington Post:

GOP Trio Must Act Fast To Stall Trump
A Moment To Embrace On A Kinder Campaign Stop
Secret Police? Virginia Considers Bill To Withhold All Officers' Names.
In Brazil, Zika Exposes Class Divide
Kalamazoo's Agonizing Wait For Why

Financial Times:

IMF Urges To Economies To Join Forces In Growth Push
CEO Email Scams Cost Business \$2bn As Staff Fall For Trick To Send Cash Overseas

Washington Times:

Trump Matches Romney's 2012 Support As Rivals' Infighting Clears Path To Victory
Sanders Uses Poverty To Drive Wedge Between Clinton, Blacks
Obama Administration Promises Crackdown On Sanctuary Cities
Planned Parenthood Dented As American Cancer Society Backs Away From Breast Exams
Latest Confederate Cleansing Target Is Statue Of Dred Scott Justice At Maryland State House
US Volunteers Set Up Field Hospitals To Treat Kurds Battling Islamic State

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Reid Endorses Clintons; Tim Cook Interview-Part 1; Tim Cook Interview-Part 2; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Hawaii-Helicopter Crash Investigation; Sports Reporter Stalker Case; Colorado-Police Shooting; Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit Verdict.

CBS: Severe Weather; Severe Weather-Louisiana; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Skakel Murder Case; Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit Verdict; Atlas Robot; Congressional Gold Medal Recipients.

NBC: Severe Weather; Takata Airbags Investigation; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Sports Reporter Stalker Case; Melania Trump Interview; Mississippi-Tainted Water Discovery; E-Cigarettes Battery Explosion; Astronaut Scott Kelly Interview.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 12 minutes, 15 seconds
Severe Weather/Weather Forecast – 11 minutes, 25 seconds
Sports Reporter Stalker Case – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit Verdict – 2 minutes, 25 seconds
Justice Scalia Replacement Debate – 2 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tim Cook Interview; Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Wall Street.

CBS: Severe Weather; New North Korea Sanctions; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Texas-Charges Against Former Gov. Pery Dismissed.

FOX: Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Oregon Occupiers Plead Not Guilty; Justice Scalia Replacement Debate; Tim Cook Interview; Skakel Murder Case.

NPR: Severe Weather; Tim Cook Interview; Oregon Occupiers Plead Not Guilty; Louisiana-Abortion Law Dispute; ACA Lawsuit; California-Former State Senator Sentenced.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; participates in a panel discussion, South Court Auditorium, Open Press; holds a meeting with his National Security Council at the State Department, travel pool coverage; delivers a statement, State Department, travel pool coverage.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden and Commerce Secretary Pritzker in Mexico for annual economic dialogue.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brad Carson to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Jennifer O'Connor to be Department of Defense General Counsel; and Todd Weiler to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Tara Andringa Senate Armed Services Committee Tara_Andringa@levin.senate.gov 1 202 228 3685.

10:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on patent reform – Hearing on 'An Examination of Changes to the US. Patent System & Impacts on America's Small Businesses', with invited witnesses including former USPTO Commissioner of Patents Robert Stoll, Licensing Executives Society Chairman-elect Brian O'Shaughnessy, and Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures Technology Transfer Exec Dir Neil Veloso. Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

10:00 AM Senate HSGAC hearing on 'Connecting Patients to New and Potential Life Saving Treatments' – Hearing on 'Connecting Patients to New and Potential Life Saving Treatments', with testimony from Fairleigh Dickinson University Rothman Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Exec Dir Joseph Gulfo, Goldwater Institute President and CEO Darcy Olsen, Laura McLinn (Indianapolis), Diego Morris (Phoenix), and Kids v Cancer Exec Dir Nancy Goodman. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

10:00 AM Business meeting to consider the Chairman's Mark on Biotechnology Labeling Solutions. Location: Rm 328A Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Meghan Cline Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry meghan_cline@ag.senate.gov 1 202 224 2035.

10:30 AM AG Lynch testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on DoJ FY'17 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the US. Department of Justice', with testimony from Attorney General Loretta Lynch. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

12:30 PM Dems Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce WARN Act – Democrats Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce the 'Whistleblower Augmented Reward and Non-Retaliation Act of 2016', to expand protections for those who put their careers at risk to blow the whistle on financial crimes, via press conference. Government Accountability Project Legislative Director and Investigator Shanna Devine and Americans for Financial Reform Senior Policy Analyst Alexis Goldstein also speak. Location: S-120, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/cummings/> <https://twitter.com/RepCummings>. Contacts: Jennifer Kohl Press secretary to Rep. Elijah Cummings Jennifer. Kohl@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4289. Please RSVP to Fabion. Seaton@Mail.House.Gov if you plan to attend.

1:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs roundtable on five years of the Tribal Law and Order Act – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs roundtable discussion on 'The Tribal Law and Order Act 5 Years Later: Next Steps to Improving Justice Systems in Indian Communities'. Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs 1 202 224 2251.

2:00 PM Senate HELP Committee considers Education Secretary nominee – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Executive Session, with agenda including consideration of Dr. John King to be

Secretary of Education. Dr. King would replace Arne Duncan, who stepped down at the end of 2015 after almost seven years in the role. Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate HELP Committee 1 202 224 5375.

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on impact of high-skilled immigration on US. workers – Immigration and the National Interest Subcommittee hearing on 'The Impact of High-Skilled Immigration on US. Workers', with testimony from former Disney IT Engineer Leo Perreo, Washington Alliance of Technology Workers Attorney John Miano, JackThreads CTO Mark O'Neill, Rutgers University John J. Heldrich Center For Workforce Development Senior Faculty Fellow Dr. Hal Salzman, Colgate University Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Chad Sparber, and Howard University Associate Professor of Public Policy Dr. Ron Hira. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224 7703.

US House: 9:00 AM Caucus on Corrosion Prevention Congressional briefing on 'Preventing the Next Flint' – Congressional Caucus on Corrosion Prevention Co-Chairs Democratic Rep. Elizabeth Esty and Republican Rep. Pete Olson host 'Preventing the Next Flint Water Crisis – What is America's Corrosion Plan?' Congressional briefing, with technical experts from the corrosion and water industries discussing federal policy options to ensure all communities have access to uncontaminated drinking water. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee, DNV GL VP Oliver Moghissi, and corrosion engineer Yaofu Zhang. Location: Rm 411 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC esty.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepEsty>. Contacts: Craig Frucht Rep. Esty Communications Director craig.frucht@mail.house.gov 1 203 561 6457.

9:00 AM Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Capitol Hill celebration – Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Capitol Hill Breakfast and Briefing, honoring the day dedicated to 'empowering and engaging girls in the engineering field'. Hosted by Democratic Rep. Dan Lipinski, with speakers including Democratic Reps. Donna Edwards and Paul Tonko, Lockheed Martin VP of Energy, Environment, Safety & Health Carol Cala, US. Navy Engineer LaTisha Durham, and American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics Exec Dir former astronaut Sandy Magnus. Location: Rm B354 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.discovere.org> <https://twitter.com/DiscoverEorg>. Contacts: Geena Pandolfi Sayles & Winnikoff Communications geena@sayleswinnikoff.com 1 212 725 5200. Best Time for Coverage: 9:00 AM.

9:00 AM Agency chiefs testify to House Intelligence Committees on worldwide threats – Hearing on 'World Wide Threats', with testimony from CIA Director John Brennan; Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; FBI Director James Comey; National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen; National Security Agency Director Adm. Michael Rogers; and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart. Location: HVC-210, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>. Contacts: House Select Intelligence Committee intelligence.hpsci@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4121. Press set up will begin at 7:00 am. All media must be in place by 8:00 am ET.

9:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Indian Health Service budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Indian Health Service', with testimony from Indian Health Service Acting Director Robert McSwain, and Deputy Director Mary Smith. Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee oversight hearing on VA IG – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Inspector General Linda Halliday and Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections John David Daigh Jr. Location: Rm 2362-B, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

9:30 AM Secretary of State Kerry testifies to House Foreign Affairs Committee on FY'17 budget – Hearing on 'Strengthening US. Leadership in a Turbulent World: The FY 2017 Foreign Affairs Budget', with testimony from Secretary of State John Kerry. Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>. Contacts: House Foreign Affairs Committee 1 202 225 5021.

10:00 AM House Space Committee hearing on the Space Leadership Preservation Act – Hearing on 'The Space

Leadership Preservation Act and the Need for Stability at NASA', with testimony from Republican Rep. John Culberson; former NASA Administrator Michael Griffin; former NASA astronaut Col. (Ret.) Eileen Collins; and Government Accountability Office Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management Cristina Chaplain. Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>. Contacts: House Committee on Science, Space and Technology 1 202 225 6371.

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on defense contracting – Contracting and the Workforce Subcommittee hearing on 'Hotline Truths: Issues Raised by Recent Audits of Defense Contracting', with testimony from Department of Defense Assistant Inspector General for Contract Management and Payments Michael Roark; and Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers President Chuck Spence. Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>. Contacts: House Small Business Committee 1 202 225 5821.

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on cross border data flow – Hearing on 'International Conflicts of Law Concerning Cross Border Data Flow and Law Enforcement Requests', with testimony from Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General David Bitkower, Microsoft President and Chief Legal Officer Brad Smith, former Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, Intellectual Ventures Exec VP and General Counsel David Kris, and American University Washington College of Law Assistant Professor Jennifer Daskal. Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>. Contacts: House Judiciary Committee 1 202 225 3951.

10:00 AM Defense Secretary Carter testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Defense Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Department of Defense', with testimony from Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, and Under Secretary Mike McCord; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:00 AM HHS Secretary Burwell testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Department of Health and Human Services', with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Matthews Burwell. Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on pipeline safety – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on 'Reauthorization of DOT's Pipeline Safety Program', with testimony from Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez; Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) President and CEO Andrew Black; Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) President and CEO Donald Santa; XCEL Energy Senior Vice President for Gas Cheryl Campbell (on behalf of American Gas Association); and Pipeline Safety Trust Executive Director Carl Weimer. Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>. Contacts: House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 1 202 225 9446.

10:00 AM House Armed Services Committee hearing on 'Full Spectrum Security Challenges in Europe' – Hearing on 'Full Spectrum Security Challenges in Europe and their Effects on Deterrence and Defense', with testimony from US. European Command Commander Gen. Philip Breedlove. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

10:00 AM Acting Education Secretary King testifies to House committee hearing on the ESSA – Hearing on 'Next Steps for K-12 Education: Upholding the Letter and Intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act', with testimony from Acting Secretary of Education Dr. John King. Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>. Contacts: House Committee on Education and the Workforce 1 202 225 4527.

10:00 AM Congressional Hispanic Caucus Pen & Pad session – Congressional Hispanic Caucus Pen & Pad session with reporters, with CHC Chairwoman Rep. Linda Sanchez, Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, and other members of the Caucus. Location: House of Representatives, Washington, DC <http://congressionalhispaniccaucus-sanchez.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HispanicCaucus>. Contacts: Jasmine Mora CHC Communications Director Jasmine. Mora@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 2410.

10:00 AM House Agriculture subcommittee hearing on G-20 swap data reporting goals – Commodity

Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee hearing 'To review the G-20 swap data reporting goals', with testimony from Commodity Futures Trading Commission CIO John Rogers, ISDA Co-Head of Data Reporting and FpML Tara Kruse, Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation MD and CEO of DTCC Data Repository Marisol Collazo, and Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness Director Andres Gil. Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>. Contacts: House Committee on Agriculture press agpress@mail.house.gov.

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on impacts of Puerto Rico's debt crisis – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis and Its Impact on the Bond Markets', with testimony from John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Senior Research Professor of International Economics Dr Anne Kruger, CPG Island Servicing Senior Managing Director Juan Carlos Batlle, FTI Consulting Global Head of Financial Institutions and Senior Managing Director William Isaac, and Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi. Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>. Contacts: House Committee on Financial Services press 1 202 226 0471.

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on 'Security Clearance Reform' – Hearing on 'Security Clearance Reform: The Performance Accountability Council's Path Forward', with testimony from Office of Personnel Management Acting Director Beth Cobert, Department of Defense Chief Information officer Terry Halvorsen, Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director for Management Tony Scott and Office of the Director of National Intelligence Director of National Counterintelligence and Security Center William Evanina. Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>. Contacts: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 1 202 225 5074.

10:00 AM LULAC Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill – League of United Latin American Citizens Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Includes Advocacy Day Luncheon, with speakers including House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Rm B-339 / B-340 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC (12:30 PM EST) include * Part of the 19th LULAC National Legislative Conference & Awards Gala. Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC www.lulac.org <https://twitter.com/LULAC>. Contacts: Paloma Zuleta LULAC pzuleta@lulac.org 1 202 812 4477. Rep. Hoyer remarks at approx 1:30 PM

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on Puerto Rico – Oversight hearing on 'The US. Department of Treasury's Analysis of the Situation in Puerto Rico', with testimony from Treasury's Counselor Antonio Weiss. Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>. Contacts: Parish Braden House Committee on Natural Resources parish.braden@mail.house.gov

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on DHS Human Resource Information Technology program – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'Probing DHS's Botched Management of the Human Resources Information Technology Program', with testimony from GAO Information Technology Acquisition Management Issues Director Carol Cha, Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management Chip Fulghum, and Department of Homeland Security Chief Human Capital Officer Angela Bailey. Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>. Contacts: House Homeland Security Committee 1 202 226 8417.

10:30 AM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs markup hearing – House Committee on Veterans' Affairs markup hearing of HR. 4336; HR. 4063; HR. 4129; HR. 1769; HR. 3484; Draft legislation, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with certain healthcare providers to furnish hospital care, medical services, and extended care to veterans; and, Draft legislation, the FY 2016 VA Seismic Safety, Construction, and Lease Authorization Act. Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>. Contacts: House Committee on Veterans Affairs 1 202 225 3527. Official Committee Photo of the 114th Congress' at 10:15 AM in 334 Cannon.

10:30 AM FDA Acting Commissioner Ostroff testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Food and Drug Administration', with testimony from FDA Acting Commissioner Dr Stephen Ostroff, and CFO Jay Tyler. Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

11:00 AM Dem Rep. Beto O'Rourke speaks on border bill – Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke speaks on 'HR

3576, Border Enforcement, Accountability, Oversight and Community Engagement Act', which calls for greater accountability and oversight of the border enforcement strategies and the US. Border Patrol, via press conference with Border Network for Human Rights Exec Dir Fernando Garcia, El Paso County Commissioners Court County Commissioner David Stout, South Texas Human Rights Center Founder Eddie Canales, Hope Border Institute Exec Dir Dylan Corbett, Kino Border Initiative Director of Education and Advocacy Joanna Williams, and Mercy Ministries of Laredo Casa de Misericordia Exec Dir Sister Rosemary Welsh. Location: Rm 2103 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.bnhr.org. Contacts: Gabriela Castaneda Border Network for Human Rights gcastaneda@bnhr.org 1 915 494 4213.

12:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including: 'HR. 3624, Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act of 2015'; and 'HR. 2406, SHARE Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/> Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. 10:00 am. for Morning Hour debate.

12:30 PM Dems Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce WARN Act – Democrats Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Tammy Baldwin introduce the 'Whistleblower Augmented Reward and Non-Retaliation Act of 2016', to expand protections for those who put their careers at risk to blow the whistle on financial crimes, via pres conference. Government Accountability Project Legislative Director and Investigator Shanna Devine and Americans for Financial Reform Senior Policy Analyst Alexis Goldstein also speak. Location: S-120, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/cummings/> <https://twitter.com/RepCummings>. Contacts: Jennifer Kohl Press secretary to Rep. Elijah Cummings Jennifer. Kohl@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4289. Please RSVP to Fabion. Seaton@Mail.House.Gov if you plan to attend.

1:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation', with testimony from Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation Executive Director Chris Bavasi. Location: Rm B-308, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

2:00 PM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on CO-OPs – Hearing on 'Review of Obamacare Consumer Operated and Oriented Plans (CO-OPs)', with testimony from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services COO and Chief of Staff Dr Mandy Cohen, and Maryland Insurance Administration Commissioner Al Redmer Jr. Location: Rm 2157, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>. Contacts: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 1 202 225 5074

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on international insurance regulations – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Impact of International Regulatory Standards on the Competitiveness of US. Insurers: Part II', with testimony from Columbia Insurance Group President and CEO Gary Thompson (on behalf of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies), University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Dept of Legal Studies and Business Ethics Associate Professor David Zaring, Fairfax (US) Inc. Regulatory Affairs VP Joseph Torti III (on behalf of the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America), and American Council of Life Insurers Reinsurance and International Policy VP and Chief Counsel Carolyn Cobb. Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>. Contacts: House Committee on Financial Services press 1 202 226 0471

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on emerging cyber threats – Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, Security Technologies Subcommittee hearing on 'Emerging Cyber Threats to the United States', with testimony from George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security Associate VP and Director Frank Cillufo, FireEye Threat Intelligence Lead Technical Director Jennifer Kolde, Symantec Security Technology and Response VP Adam Bromwich (on behalf of the Cyber Threat Alliance), and The RAND Army Research Division Forces and Logistics Program Associate Director Dr Isaac Porche. Location: Rm 311, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>. Contacts: House Homeland Security Committee 1 202 226 8417

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'HR. 2316, Self-Sufficient Community Lands Act', 'HR. 3650, State National Forest Management Act of 2015', 'HR. 3826, Mount Hood Cooper Spur Land Exchange Clarification Act', 'HR. 4510, Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act', and 'HR. 4579, To withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation', with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Raul Labrador, Jared Polis, Greg Walden, Chris Stewart and Don Young, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Range Planning

Director James Sample, Acting National Forest System Deputy Chief Glen Casamassa, BLM Deputy Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals and Realty Management Karen Mouristen, District 2 Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank, and Southeast Conference Timber Committee Chairman Bryce Dahlstrom. Location: Rm 1334, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>. Contacts: Parish Braden House Committee on Natural Resources parish.braden@mail.house.gov

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FBI budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Federal Bureau of Investigation', with testimony from FBI Director James Comey. Location: H-309, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on CPSC budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – Consumer Product Safety Commission', with testimony from CPSC Chairman Elliott Kaye, and Commissioner Ann Marie Buerkle. Location: HT-2, US. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>. Contacts: House Committee on Appropriations 1 202 225 3481.

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Navy FY'17 budget – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Navy 2017 Budget Request and Seapower and Projection Forces', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition Sean Stackley; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8) Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy; and US. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Capability Development and Integration Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh. Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>. Contacts: House Armed Services Committee 1 202 226 8980.

2:30 PM African-American contributions during WWI celebrated at Capitol Hill briefing – Capitol Hill briefing celebrating Black History Month, focusing on the contributions that African Americans made during World War I, with members of the Congressional Black Caucus Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel, Corine Brown, Sanford Bishop and Emanuel Cleaver, US. World War I Centennial Commissioner Exec Dir Dan Dayton, Emory University Prof. Pellom McDaniels, West Virginia University Prof. Joel Beeson, and New York University Prof. Jeff Sammons. Location: Rm B-318 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/rangel/> <https://twitter.com/cbrangel>. Contacts: Hannah Kim Rep. Charles Rangel Communications Director Hannah. Kim@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 4365.

Other: 9:00 AM NHLA release Hispanic Public Policy Agenda – National Hispanic Leadership Agenda release 2016 Hispanic Public Policy Agenda, which details the Latino community's 'critical policy concerns', including economic security and empowerment, education, immigration, government accountability, civil rights, environment and energy, and health, via press conference with Democratic Rep. Xavier Becerra, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Exec Dir Hector Sanchez; MALDEF President and General Counsel Thomas Saenz; Hispanic Federation President Jose Calderon; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health Exec Dir Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas; LatinoJustice PRLDEF President and General Counsel Juan Cartagena; and Farmworker Justice Director of Occupational & Environmental Health Virginia Ruiz, US Capitol House Triangle, Washington, DC (9:00 AM EST) * Later, Sanchez, Saenz, Calderon, Gonzalez-Rojas, Cartagena and Wilkes call on presidential candidates to respond to the Agenda, via press call (11:30 AM EST). Location: TBD nationalhispanicleadership.org <https://twitter.com/NHLAagenda>. Contacts: Estuardo Rodriguez Raben Group estuardo@rabengroup.com 1 202 631 2892 Brenda Arredondo Raben Group barredondo@rabengroup.com 1 202 587 4945. In the event of inclement weather, press conference will be moved to B-339/340 (Basement level), Rayburn House Office Building * Press call details: Participant Dial-in Number(s): 877 876 9174 Verbal conference code: NHLA.

9:30 AM Chinese foreign minister speaks at CSIS – Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at CSIS Statemen's Forum on Chinese foreign policy and US-China relations. Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>. Contacts: H. Andrew Schwartz CSIS media aschwartz@csis.org 1 202 775 3242 handrewschwartz.

10:00 AM 2015 Anne Frank Award Ceremony honoring Nicholas Kristof and Cindy McCain – 2015 Anne Frank Award Ceremony honoring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof for his work to call attention to human trafficking and human rights violations around the world. Cindy McCain is presented with the Anne Frank Special Recognition Award for her work to raise awareness and educate the public on human trafficking. The event also features a discussion and Q&A, 'Individual Responsibility in Confronting Human Trafficking', with

Nicholas Kristof, Cindy McCain, and moderator Katrina Lantos Swett. Guests include Dutch Ambassador to the United States Henne Schuwer, and Democrats Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and Reps. Bill Huizenga, Derek Wilmer and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. Location: Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. SE, Washington, DC <http://www.the-netherlands.org/>. Contacts: Carla Bundy Royal Netherlands Embassy cy.bundy@minbuza.nl 1 202 274 2632 Jason LaLonde Anne Frank Center USA jlalonde@annefrank.com 1 212 431 7993 ext. 307.

10:00 AM 'Demographics and democracy' discussed at AEI – 'States of change: Demographics and democracy' American Enterprise Institute / Brookings Institution / Center for American Progress event, with experts giving presentations on demographic change and its implications for the nation's electoral future and key policy challenges. Agenda includes presentation from Hillary Clinton campaign senior strategist Joel Benenson. Location: AEI, 17th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>. Contacts: AEI media mediaservices@aei.org 1 202 862 5829.

11:35 AM New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Walk to Washington event – New Jersey Chamber of Commerce 79th Annual Walk to Washington & Congressional Dinner, with speakers including Democratic Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, Republican Rep. Chris Smith, NJTV Chief Political Correspondent Michael Aron, and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst commander Col. Frederick Thaden. Location: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC www.njchamber.com <https://twitter.com/njchamber> #chambertrain. Contacts: Scott Goldstein New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Communications Manager Scott. Goldstein@njchamber.com 1 609 989 7888 x 113.

12:00 PM US. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy speaks with youth on the nation's health – US. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy speaks at Truth Initiative conversation with youth from around the US. on proving the nation's public health through the lens of service, clinical care, research, and education. Murthy also shares his vision of how young people can be a part of tobacco-free living, and encourage change in their communities. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC truthinitiative.org. Contacts: Nicole Dueffert Truth Initiative media ndueffert@truthinitiative.org 1 202 454 5589. Doors: 11:00 am. EST Lunch: 11:30 am. Program: Noon to 1 pm.

12:00 PM Berkeley Research Group Associate Director James Koehler addresses Natural Gas Roundtable. Location: The University Club, 1135 16th St, Washington, DC <http://www.aga.org/> https://twitter.com/aga_naturalgas. Contacts: Ella Proctor American Gas Association eproctor@aga.org 1 202 824 7000.

12:30 PM Norwegian Energy Minister speaks on 'Gas from Norway's High North' – Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Tord Lien speaks at Atlantic Council Eurasian Energy Futures Initiative event 'Gas from Norway's High North: Bringing Energy Security and Opportunities to Europe', discussing how Norway's gas sector could be bring energy security and an opportunity for low-cost CO2-emission reductions to Europe. Location: Loews Madison Hotel, 1177 15th St. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>. Contacts: Atlantic Council info@AtlanticCouncil.org 1 202 778 4952. This event is open to press and on the record. BHussein@AtlanticCouncil.org.

1:30 PM McCain Institute for Human Trafficking Symposium – McCain Institute for Human Trafficking Symposium, with speakers include Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children President and CEO John Clark, The McCain Institute Human Trafficking Advisory Council Chair Cindy McCain, Courtney's House Founder Tina Frundt, StreetLightUSA Resident Advocate Carolyn Jones, and My Life My Choice Director of Mentor Services Ann Wilkinson. Location: Library of Congress, 10 First St. SE, Washington, DC <http://mccaininstitute.org/> <https://twitter.com/McCainInstitute> ##EndTrafficking. Contacts: McCain Institute events events@mccaininstitute.org. Doors open: 1:00 PM EST.

2:30 PM Census Bureau director and CFO briefing on FY'17 budget request – Census Bureau Director John Thompson and Chief Financial Officer Joanne Crane brief media, via online Web conference, about the Bureau's funding components in President Barack Obama's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request. Location: TBD <http://www.census.gov/> <https://twitter.com/usensusbureau>. Contacts: US. Census Bureau press inquiries pio@census.gov 1 301 763 3030.

6:30 PM World Affairs Council Embassy Series event at the French Embassy – World Affairs Council Embassy Series event at the Residence of the French Ambassador, with remarks from the Ambassador of France to the US Gerard Araud. Location: 2221 Kalorama Rd., Washington, DC <http://www.worldaffairsdc.org> https://twitter.com/wac_dc. Contacts: World Affairs Council info@worldaffairsdc.org 1 202 293 1051.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Are you paying attention to the elections? How can you not? It's Donald Trump against all reasonable expectation. He's now the no kidding around favorite to become the Republican nominee for president. He won the Nevada caucuses last night. He didn't just win, he destroyed. He got more votes than Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz combined. It's huge. It's humongous. It's humiliatingly close to unanimous. Trump won in every demographic. He won white men, white women, white rich people, white poor people, rural whites, urban whites. He got one vote from a Chinese guy, which was nice."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump actually even won the Latino vote, which is amazing. ... I have to say it makes me wonder if people really come here from Mexico for a better life or if they come to get away from their relatives? Maybe they want the wall to keep their in-laws out."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Dr. Ben Carson finished a very distant fourth in Nevada. He only got five percent of the vote. But for some reason he's still not dropping out. He's promised to continue on. He said – and this is a quote – 'I believe that things are starting to happen here.' Here's how you know it's time to drop out. You know it's time to go when it's been weeks since Donald Trump even bothered to call you a moron."

Stephen Colbert: "Last night the GOP held their Nevada caucus, and the people of Vegas did what they do best – they pulled the lever and risked absolutely everything. And when it was over, it came up orange, orange, orange, because Donald Trump won a huge victory, taking every Las Vegas demographic: Elvis impersonators, white tiger handlers, even master illusionists."

Stephen Colbert: "The point is, Donald Trump is now the likely Republican nominee, with a real shot at being the next president, and I'm not sure if I'm horrified or entertained. It's like watching one of those nature documentaries where the python unhinges its jaw and slowly swallows the capybara and then becomes president of the United States."

Stephen Colbert: "But now, Trump winning all these primaries has caused the establishment Republicans to realize that Trump is winning all these primaries. ... Yes, like many other Las Vegas visitors, the GOP woke up this morning with a raging hangover, wondering what the [heck] happened last night."

Stephen Colbert: "This billionaire having his way with the election is shocking and unthinkable to the billionaires who have their way with our elections. So they've formed an anti-Trump super PAC, which has already spent more than \$3.5 million on negative ads – much of the cash coming from the family that owns the Chicago Cubs. And we all know the Cubs are synonymous with winning."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night was the Republican caucus in Nevada. And Donald Trump scored a big victory, bringing him one step closer to the Republican nomination. Yep. The Trump presidency is getting very real right now. It's getting so real, Mexico is starting to think a wall is a pretty great idea."

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right, Donald Trump won his third state last night. In fact, he got more votes than Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz combined. It was so bad, afterwards, Rubio and Cruz stopped fighting and just started holding each other."

Jimmy Fallon: "Did you see this? Donald Trump said that if elected president, he'd look into prosecuting Hillary Clinton for using her private email server. So, if Trump wins, Hillary will already be on trial for murdering her entire campaign staff."

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, after finishing a distant second in Nevada, Marco Rubio apparently went to bed as the results were still coming in. When asked if he needed a wake-up call, he said, 'I think I just got one.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday President Obama announced his plans to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Not to be outdone, Donald Trump announced that he wants to open a chain of Guantanamo Bays."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump won last night's Nevada Republican caucus with 45 percent of the vote. So it sounds like the people of Nevada are putting it all on red [referring to Trump's hair]."

Seth Meyers: "Following his win at last night's Nevada caucus, Donald Trump told supporters that he won in almost every voter demographic and said, quote, 'I love the poorly educated.' To which they replied, 'Us love you, Mr. Trump!'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump said yesterday that his supporters are so loyal that they would kill for him. In fact, that's who killed that thing he wears on his head."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump's wife, Melania, said in a new interview that she speaks at least four languages. Melania said she's always looking for a new way to say, 'Help me!'"

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump's wife, Melania, said in a new interview that her husband's amazing mind helped her fall for him. So it wasn't purely physical like we all assumed."

Conan O'Brien: "After he won yesterday's Nevada caucus, Donald Trump said, 'I love the poorly educated.' Trump then said, 'And when I'm president there will be more of them than ever.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Donald Trump's wife is speaking out more. Although she herself is an immigrant, Donald Trump's wife, Melania, says she is fine with her husband's tough, anti-immigration stance. When asked why, Mrs. Trump said she had about 4.5 billion reasons."

Conan O'Brien: "Wealthy GOP donors are now lining up behind Marco Rubio. Not because the donors think he can stop Trump, but because they think Rubio is the valet."

Conan O'Brien: "Hillary Clinton came to Los Angeles and she visited the set of the political drama 'Scandal'. It was an awkward moment when Hillary told the writers, 'Man, have I got some ideas for you.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Despite Jeb Bush's poor campaign, some analysts are already talking about the political rise of his son, George P. Bush. ... George P. Bush has already got his campaign slogan, 'Don't worry, I was adopted.'"

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Degroff, Amanda <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 10, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please contact Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Secretary Jewell To Celebrate Recovery Of Louisiana Black Bear On Thursday.
- + Malheur Refuge Occupiers Hit With New Charges.
- + Majority Of Malheur County Voters Oppose Owyhee Monument.
- + Interior Film From 1939 Shows Origins Of Civilian Conservation Corps.
- + Sen. Murkowski, Forest Service Chief Tidwell Clash Over Tongass Logging Plan.
- + Researcher Develops Sage Grouse Map.
- + Western Land Managers Release Report On Battling Invasive Weeds.
- + Utah Legislature Sets Aside Funds For Lawsuit To Demand Control Of Federal Lands.
- + Additional Coverage: Natural Resource Investment Center Gains Leader.
- + Newest California Monuments Praised.
- + Support Urged For Arkansas Valley Conduit Project.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + Navajo Nation Officials Meet With Federal Officials In Washington.
- + Schaghticoke Tribe Planning Bid For Federal Recognition.
- + Oklahoma Bill Changes Definition Of Who Can Sell "Indian Art".
- + History Of Littleton 12 Recounted.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + NMI Receives \$382.2K For CUC Construction Management.
- + NPS Commends CNMI Historic Preservation Office.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + House Republicans Claim Gold King Emails Show Interior Avoided Investigating EPA's Fault.
- + BOR Commits To Working On Glendive Intake Diversion Dam.
- + BOR Increases Releases From Folsom Dam.
- + Westlands Water District To Pay Fine In Settlement With SEC.
- + BOR Urged To Increase Delta Water Exports.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + BLM Issues Favorable Environmental Assessment For Wyoming Wind Farm.
- + BOEM Accepts Lease Request For Hawaii Offshore Wind Project.
- + UMass Researchers Develop Improved Wind Turbine Anchoring System.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Democrats Ask GAO To Review Self-Bonding.
- + Environmentalist Seek Injunction Against Fracking Near Chaco Canyon.

- + [Obama, Trudeau Expected To Announce Methane Emissions Restrictions.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: BLM Rejects Royalty-rate Cut For Idled Elk Creek Mine.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Dozens Protest In Reno Against BLM Auction Of Oil, Gas Leases On Federal Land.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: States, Gas Industry Say BLM Claiming Overly Broad Authority Over Fracking.](#)
- + [Taxpayer Advocate Urges BLM Not To Delay New Rule To Reduce Wasted Gas.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Coastal Advocates Urge President Obama To Scrap Proposal To Redirect Oil Money.](#)
- + [Draft Review Finds Offshore Well Stimulation Treatments Not Expected To Significantly Effect Santa Barbara Channel.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Las Vegas Protest Planned In Support Of Cliven Bundy.](#)
- + [Utah Bill Targets Public-land Law Enforcement.](#)
- + [Nevada Rancher Bundy Sold 1,300 Cattle Over Past Five Years.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Twin Metals Mine Dealt Another Setback.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Lawmakers Want To Take Away Guns From Federal Law Enforcement Agents.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Western Governors Scrutinize Endangered Species Act.](#)
- + [Conservationists Press FWS To Continue Wolf Tracking.](#)
- + [FWS Rejects Trails For Luxury Homes.](#)
- + [Auction House Head Pleads Guilty In Smuggling Case.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: FWS Distributes \\$1.1 Billion To State Wildlife Agencies.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: FWS Proposes Update To Mitigation Policy.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: FWS Proposes To Lift Grizzly Protection In Yellowstone Area.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Elephants From Swaziland Being Transported To US Zoos.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Reward Offered After Bald Eagle Killed In Kentucky.](#)

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Faces Diversity Challenge.](#)
- + [Yellowstone Bison Sent To Slaughter As Park Trims Herd.](#)
- + [National Park Foundation Awards 2016 Active Trails Grants.](#)
- + [New Children's Book Written In Honor Of NPS Centennial.](#)
- + [Cumberland Gap National Historical Park To Hold "Meet And Greet" Event.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Google Cultural Institute.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Seeks Public Comments On Grand Canyon Bison Herd Reduction.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Source: White House Interviewing Five Potential Supreme Court Nominees.](#)
- + [Media Analyses: Clinton Emerges "Unscathed" From Debate With "Reenergized" Sanders.](#)
- + [Trump Needs 54% Of Remaining Delegates To Get To 1,237.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO CELEBRATE RECOVERY OF LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR ON THURSDAY.

[KSLA-TV Shreveport, LA](#) (3/9, 63K) reports that on Thursday, March 10, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will “travel to Tensas National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate a successful conservation partnership to protect and recover the Louisiana Black bear from the brink of extinction.” Jewell will “highlight meaningful recovery efforts among federal, state, and local landowners for more than 20 years that have led to significant success for the bear – the inspiration for the iconic teddy bear.” She will be joined by FWS Director Dan Ashe, Interior’s Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Michael Bean and U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Ann Mills.

The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star](#) (3/9, 121K) praises the recovery of the Teddy bear. It says that “conservation efforts of the people of Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and other organizations brought this woodland creature back from the risk of extinction.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (3/9, 46K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/10, 337K), [KATC-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (3/10, 54K), and [WVUE-TV](#) New Orleans (3/10, 44K).

MALHEUR REFUGE OCCUPIERS HIT WITH NEW CHARGES. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Johnson) reports that several participants in the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge standoff have been indicted on new charges, including damaging government property and the carrying guns in a federal facility. The indictment, which was unsealed Wednesday, supersedes an earlier indictment in the case. The indictment lists 26 defendants, including occupation leader Ammon Bundy. As in the last indictment, each defendant is charged with conspiring to impede a federal agent, though not all were charged with the new counts.

The AP (3/9, Dubois) reports that Wednesday, Bundy and his co-defendants all pleaded not guilty to the new charges against them. Bundy “and eight others, including his brother Ryan, were charged with carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence, which has a maximum penalty of life in prison,” the AP says.

The [Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/9, Levin, 3.71M), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/10, 2K), the [Oregonian](#) (3/10, 864K), and the website of [CBS News](#) (3/9, 3.97M) also report on this story.

BIA Pledges Support To Burns Paiute Tribe In Aftermath Of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge's Occupation.

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/9, Keeler, 48K) reports that last Monday, March 1, members of the Burns Paiute Tribe were “finally allowed to visit” the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge contains “their ancient wintering grounds and...culturally-sensitive sites and even burial grounds.” The cleanup of the refuge will include the removal of “a road the occupiers constructed, as well as three different trenches they dug where they dumped trash and human feces.” Bureau of Indian Affairs regional director Stanley Speaks has “assured” tribal members that the agency “would offer assistance for expenses the tribe had incurred for extra law enforcement patrols and for the aftermath.”

Finicum Widow Has Not Said Whether She Will Settle With BLM. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, Piper, 388K) reports on Jeanette Finicum, the widow of LaVoy Finicum, 54, who had been “the spokesman for the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.” She did not “say whether she plans to settle up with the Bureau of Land Management” regarding grazing fees for cattle on land in Arizona. She has said that her husband was “assassinated.”

Santilli Says Federal Case Against Him Based On What He Said. [WBUR-FM Boston](#) (3/9, 126K) carries an audio report on its website about Pete Santilli, who “broadcast hundreds of hours from the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge” and from “the 2014 standoff in Nevada between ranchers and the Bureau of Land Management.” Santilli has argued that the federal charges against him are based on “things he’s said.” The report says that is “raising questions about Santilli’s First Amendment rights.”

Additional Coverage Of Investigation Of Shots Fired During Arrests Of Oregon Occupiers. Additional coverage that “FBI agents who were at the scene of the shooting death of a key figure of the occupation of an Oregon national wildlife refuge are under federal investigation for not disclosing they fired two shots that missed Robert ‘LaVoy’ Finicum” was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/9, 975K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/9, 442K), [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/9, 30K), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (3/9, 85K), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (3/9, 177K).

Secretary Jewell Criticized For Lack Of Leadership During Malheur Occupation. In an op-ed for the [High](#)

Country (CO) News (3/10, 74K), Matt Jenkins criticizes the lack of leadership by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Jenkins argues that "Jewell ought to be the first person to stand up for these treasures when they come under attack," but "instead, we got complete silence." He also points out that Jewell was also "a no-show" during "the showdown on Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada, in 2014."

MAJORITY OF MALHEUR COUNTY VOTERS OPPOSE OWYHEE MONUMENT. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (3/9, 19K) reports that "about 54 percent of eligible voters in Malheur County registered their opposition to a proposed Owyhee Canyonlands national monument in Tuesday's advisory referendum." The article notes that "of the votes cast, 90 percent were in opposition to a monument designation." It adds that "there were 5,666 votes opposed, with 633 votes in support of a monument, according to complete and unofficial results from the Malheur County Clerk's office." Also, "the turnout for the election was 54.25 percent of registered voters, with 6,301 ballots cast."

Additional coverage was provided by [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).

Interior Officials Meet Oregon Officials On Land Management Issues. [My Columbia Basin \(WA\)](#) (3/9) reports that Umatilla County Commissioner Lamy Givens, commenting on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with meetings with legislators and lobbyists, said that "federal officials are listening to questions about natural resource and federal land management." Givens said "during his time on Capitol Hill, he had a meeting with National Parks Director John Jarvis." Meanwhile, Harney County Judge Steve Grasty met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

INTERIOR FILM FROM 1939 SHOWS ORIGINS OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS. [SCV-TV Santa Clarita, CA](#) (3/9) shows an Interior Department film from 1939 which "examines the origins of the Civilian Conservation Corps and profiles various accomplishments of the group in helping to build our nation's parks."

SEN. MURKOWSKI, FOREST SERVICE CHIEF TIDWELL CLASH OVER TONGASS LOGGING PLAN. [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "a Forest Service draft plan to end old-growth logging at Alaska's Tongass National Forest sparked several tense exchanges yesterday between the agency's head and Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski." Murkowski, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, asked Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell "to hold off on advancing the plan to move from old-growth to new-growth logging in Tongass until completing a detailed inventory to ensure there is actually enough young-growth timber to sustain the industry." Murkowski told Tidwell "she was particularly concerned that the Forest Service's \$4.9 billion fiscal 2017 budget request did not include funding to pay for such an inventory." However, "Tidwell told Murkowski that the Forest Service intends to move forward with the plan, even if the inventory is not complete, as part of an ongoing effort to amend the Tongass National Forest's land-use plan to identify which areas should be available for timber harvest."

RESEARCHER DEVELOPS SAGE GROUSE MAP. The [Mountain Mail](#) (3/9, 17K) reports that "a Colorado State University researcher has developed an interactive online map to better target invasive species that are damaging sage grouse habitat and associated rangeland." In 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture "launched a conservation effort called the Sage Grouse Initiative, which will use the new map."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rocky Mountain Collegian \(CO\)](#) (3/9, 201).

WESTERN LAND MANAGERS RELEASE REPORT ON BATTLING INVASIVE WEEDS. The [AP](#) (3/9, Ridler, 285K) reports that "public lands managers have released an outline for creating a decades-long strategy to combat wildfire-prone invasive weeds considered a main threat to Great Basin sagebrush ecosystems." According to the report released Monday by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, "piecemeal efforts must be replaced by landscape-wide strategies stretching across Western states." The article notes that "the report is part of a much larger effort following Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's order in January 2015 calling for a 'science-based' strategy that safeguards the greater sage grouse while contending with wildfires that have grown larger over the years and have been especially destructive in the Great Basin region."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/9, 198K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/9, 337K), and the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (3/9, 73K).

UTAH LEGISLATURE SETS ASIDE FUNDS FOR LAWSUIT TO DEMAND CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that "Utah budget leaders on Wednesday approved setting aside \$4.5 million as the first payment toward a lawsuit aimed at asserting state ownership of tens of

millions of acres of federal land within Utah's borders." According to the article, "the lawsuit money is being set aside in case Attorney General Sean Reyes decides to file the public-lands lawsuit that has been years in the making." Also, "another \$250,000 was earmarked to go toward a group created by rural county commissioners that could bolster the legal defense of San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/10, 388K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER GAINS LEADER. Additional coverage that the Interior Department has named Jeff Klein Executive Director Of the Natural Resource Investment Center was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (3/9).

NEWEST CALIFORNIA MONUMENTS PRAISED. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/9, 98K), Pastor Frank Ruiz writes that "Latinos in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are thrilled that President Obama recently designated our nation's three newest national monuments – Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains – in the California desert." Ruiz expresses gratitude "to President Obama and Senator Feinstein, along with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for their leadership in assuring that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the desert."

SUPPORT URGED FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT PROJECT. In an editorial, the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (3/9, 87K) notes that Sen. Cory Gardner recently questioned Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Michael Connor about "their commitment to the Arkansas Valley Conduit project." Gardner said, "They pledged continued support for the conduit and my legislation that helps to finally get construction of the project underway." The paper hopes "Gardner can get all the needed support in Washington, D.C., for his measure so that building the much-needed pipeline moves along as quickly as possible."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NAVAJO NATION OFFICIALS MEET WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. The [Flagstaff \(AZ\) Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) (3/9, 43K) reports that "last week, members from the Navajo Nation Council attended several meetings with federal officials and programs to discuss educational issues, repatriation of sacred items and proposed technical amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act. Council." Delegate Jonathan Hale "along with staff from the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and members of the Navajo Nation Board of Education, met with officials from the U.S. Department of Education, Bureau of Indian Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to discuss the Navajo Nation Alternative Accountability Workbook."

SCHAGHTICOKE TRIBE PLANNING BID FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (3/10) reports that "the Schaghticoke Indian Tribe of Kent is preparing to make a bid for federal recognition, according to a Bureau of Indian Affairs official and a tribal consultant." William Buchanan, "a business consultant for the tribe, said the tribe plans to file a petition for recognition in about 60 days."

OKLAHOMA BILL CHANGES DEFINITION OF WHO CAN SELL "INDIAN ART". The [Miami \(OK\) News Record](#) (3/9, 14K) reports that "the Oklahoma House of Representatives voted unanimously in favor of H.B. 2261 a measure, authored by State Representative Chuck Hoskin (D-Vinita) that changes the definition of who can sell 'Indian art' under the American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act of 1974." The proposed measure, "which passed the House 90-0 on Monday, defines 'American Indian tribe' as any Indian tribe federally recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and further, defines 'American Indian' as a citizen or enrolled member of an American Indian tribe." Also, "the bill adds performing arts and literature to the list of authentic arts and crafts."

HISTORY OF LITTLETON 12 RECOUNTED. Jennifer K. Falcon, an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux tribe and a progressive political organizer in San Antonio, Texas, writes at the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/9, 48K), regarding "the 44th Anniversary of an important part of the Indian Civil Rights Movement, when 12 Indian employees at the Bureau of Indians Affairs' Plant Management Engineering Center filed a formal complaint against the bureau stating discriminatory practices in training, hiring and promotions, and misusing government funds meant for Indians." The complainants, labeled the Littleton Twelve, "would spark a movement in Denver that utilized direct action and non-violent civil disobedience to secure Indian hiring preference at the BIA."

Office of Insular Affairs:

NMI RECEIVES \$382.2K FOR CUC CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/9) reports that “the commonwealth government received an authorization to proceed or ATP with the amount of \$382,225 from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s engineering and environmental management company, or EEMC.” According to the article, “the next authorization to proceed that the commonwealth expects to receive from Interior is in the amount of \$730,614 for the cleanup, inspection and repair of Tank 103.”

NPS COMMENDS CNMI HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE. [Marianas Variety](#) (3/9) reports that the NPS has “removed the high-risk status of the CNMI Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs for purposes of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program.” According to the article, “last week, HPO’s Mertie Kani shared that despite staff shortages and funding difficulties, the Historic Preservation Office has been able to achieve significant preservation goals within the past year.” In her email to Mertie Kani, Federal Grants Program Analyst, Paula Falk Creech wrote, “The National Park Service hereby rescinds the high risk status for the Historic Preservation Fund grant program. The lifting of this high-risk status is because of the improvements in grant, program, and project management. We appreciate your efforts to establish procedures to submit grant applications, project notifications, final project reports, end-of-year reports, and other grant products and documents to the NPS in a timely, complete, and accurate manner.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CLAIM GOLD KING EMAILS SHOW INTERIOR AVOIDED INVESTIGATING EPA’S FAULT. [E&E Daily](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that House Republicans claim that internal emails reveal the Interior Department “intentionally avoided investigating alleged U.S. EPA negligence in the Gold King mine spill.” The House Natural Resources Committee “obtained the email chain in response to subpoenas served to Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers on Feb. 17 concerning the spill.” Committee staff said much of the email correspondence was previously redacted at the request of Interior, which cited important “executive branch confidentiality interest.” In the first email dated Oct. 13, 2015, Thomas Luebke, director of the BOR’s Technical Service Center, sent the final draft of the “Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident” to Army Corps peer reviewer Richard Olsen for his signature. On Oct. 16, Olsen responded with “serious reservations” about the report. He “agreed with the conclusions about the spill’s technical causes but said ‘the actual cause of failure’ was some combinations of poor decisionmaking and communication breakdown.”

BOR COMMITS TO WORKING ON GLENDIVE INTAKE DIVERSION DAM. The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (3/9, 10K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester has “secured a commitment from the Bureau of Reclamation that it will work with eastern Montana irrigators to ensure access to water from the Glendive Intake Diversion Dam this growing season.” Tester said “he pressed the agencies involved to ensure that irrigators have access to water this planting season during an Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee last week.” BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez assured Tester, “We’re going to do everything that we can to make sure that farmers get some help.”

BOR INCREASES RELEASES FROM FOLSOM DAM. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/9, 569K) reports that “the American River is running higher than it has in years from Folsom to Sacramento, resulting in closed access points and encroachment on beaches.” The BOR “increased water releases from Folsom Dam to 15,000 cubic feet per second this week to make room for rain expected to begin on Thursday and continue through the weekend.”

WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT TO PAY FINE IN SETTLEMENT WITH SEC. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/9, Mohan, 4.1M) reports that “a sprawling Central Valley water district run by some of the state’s wealthiest growers papered over its drought-related financial struggles and misled investors, federal regulators said Wednesday.” The Westlands Water District “shifted about \$8.3 million in expenses and other obligations to the revenue side of its ledgers, solely to be able to represent that it had enough revenue to cover debt payments on \$77 million in bonds without having to raise rates, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.” The district’s general manager, Thomas W. Birmingham, “agreed to pay a \$50,000 penalty, and the district paid \$125,000 to settle the case.”

Additional coverage was provided by [McClatchy](#) (3/10, 22K).

BOR URGED TO INCREASE DELTA WATER EXPORTS. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/9, 279K) editorializes that the BOR’s “decision Wednesday to export less water south from the Delta than is legally allowed defies common sense.” While the paper acknowledges the decision’s impact on the Delta smelt, it says that the BOR

"must also consider the economic impact of its decisions on Valley farmers." The editorial argues that "in this specific case, its decision to pump less than is allowed under the biological opinion is a blow to our region's agriculture-powered economy."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM ISSUES FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WYOMING WIND FARM. The [Denver Business Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday issued an environmental assessment of the specific sites for 500 of the 1,000 turbines that will be part of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project in southern Wyoming. The draft finds "no new significant impacts" from the construction and installation of the wind turbines.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Gruver, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, Gruver, 881K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (3/9, 336K), and [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (3/9, 519).

BOEM ACCEPTS LEASE REQUEST FOR HAWAII OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT. [North American Windpower](#) (3/9, 43K) reports that "following the receipt of another unsolicited lease request for a floating offshore wind project offshore Oahu, Hawaii," the BOEM is "publishing a call for information and nominations in order to initiate a competitive planning and leasing process." In all, the bureau says "it has received three unsolicited lease requests from two developers: two requests – submitted in March 2015 – from AW Hawaii Wind LLC for the AWH Oahu Northwest Project and the AWH Oahu South Project and, now, one from Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind Inc. for the Progression South Coast of Oahu Project."

Additional coverage was provided by [reNews](#) (3/9).

UMASS RESEARCHERS DEVELOP IMPROVED WIND TURBINE ANCHORING SYSTEM. The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (3/9, Lederman, 312K) reports University of Massachusetts researchers are "developing a new mooring system for floating offshore wind turbines that uses an integrated network of anchors and lines to hold dozens of turbines in place in the ocean." The NSF-funded research aims to "hasten the progress toward the goal of generating 20 percent of U.S. energy needs from wind power by potentially reducing the cost of building offshore wind farms by a significant margin."

Onshore Energy Development:

DEMOCRATS ASK GAO TO REVIEW SELF-BONDING. [Politico Pro](#) (3/9) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell and Dick Durbin on Tuesday called on the Government Accountability Office "to open two different inquiries into the practice of self-bonding, under which coal producers set aside money to reclaim old coal mines in the event of bankruptcy." They said that "it's time for Interior and Congress to 'revisit' self-bonding authorization, and ask GAO to author a comparison of self-bonding across federal programs, and to audit self-bonding under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Insurance Journal](#) (3/9, 57K) and [Business Insurance](#) (3/9, 126K).

ENVIRONMENTALIST SEEK INJUNCTION AGAINST FRACKING NEAR CHACO CANYON. The [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (3/9, 69K) reports that "environmental groups have once again asked a judge to order the US Bureau of Land Management to stop issuing permits for hydraulic fracturing near Chaco Canyon." The Western Environmental Law Center "made oral arguments in the case to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver on Tuesday." According to the article, "the argument contends it's unlawful for the BLM to issue permits without analyzing their cumulative impacts while continuing to rely on a resource management plan that didn't consider drilling on this scale in this location viable." The suit "calls for a preliminary injunction to suspend additional development while the BLM does a baseline analysis of the area."

OBAMA, TRUDEAU EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE METHANE EMISSIONS RESTRICTIONS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports the Obama Administration is expected to announce methane emissions restrictions today when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visits the White House. The EPA will start devising regulations for existing wells with the intention of releasing April draft

requirements.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM REJECTS ROYALTY-RATE CUT FOR IDLED ELK CREEK MINE.

Additional coverage that the BLM "has decided against issuing a royalty rate reduction to Oxbow Mining's idled Elk Creek Mine" was provided by the [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (3/10, 17K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/9, 73K) and [Raw Story](#) (3/8, 1.24M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DOZENS PROTEST IN RENO AGAINST BLM AUCTION OF OIL, GAS LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND. Additional coverage of the "Keep It In The Ground" protest in Nevada was provided by the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/9, 22K) and [KOLO-TV Reno, NV](#) (3/8, 41K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: STATES, GAS INDUSTRY SAY BLM CLAIMING OVERLY BROAD AUTHORITY OVER FRACKING. Additional coverage that "several western states and industry groups are hammering away at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hydraulic fracturing (fracking) rule to prevent the federal agency from governing leasehold activity on public and tribal lands" was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/10, Subscription Publication).

TAXPAYER ADVOCATE URGES BLM NOT TO DELAY NEW RULE TO REDUCE WASTED GAS. Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, writes at [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K) in support of a new rule proposed by the Bureau of Land Management "to reduce wasted gas," stating that it "is both overdue and makes sense." The rule would "require operators to reduce the gas being wasted by using more current drilling technology, paying closer attention to possible leaks and fixing the ones they find, and submitting waste minimization plans along with their application for a permit to drill new wells." Alexander reports that at a public hearing for the rule in North Dakota, opponents all requested that the BLM "extend the period of time before the rule become final." He argues against this, saying that "time is money," and that "oil and gas operators are wasting taxpayer assets by literally releasing them into the air without paying for them."

Physician Urges Greater Focus On Health. Dr. Barbara Bentz, MD, a Sanford Health pediatrician, writes at the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (3/9, 97K) on the proposed rule with a focus on the health effects of methane, pointing that it is "an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas," and can "cause suffocation" leading to "headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, rapid breathing, loss of coordination, loss of consciousness and possible death." Bentz recommends including "an experienced federal public health agency such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry as a partner to determine the most effective way to continuously measure methane levels in the environment before it is sold or transported."

Offshore Energy Development:

COASTAL ADVOCATES URGE PRESIDENT OBAMA TO SCRAP PROPOSAL TO REDIRECT OIL MONEY. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (3/8, 99K) reports that "several hundred Louisiana governmental agencies, environmental groups and coastal entities cosigned a letter requesting President Barack Obama to back off on a proposal that would redirect oil and gas royalties earmarked for coastal restoration." At issue is the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act, or GOMESA, "which is expected to send about \$176 million to Louisiana next year, with \$30 million for coastal parishes such as Lafourche and Terrebonne, a majority of which is constitutionally dedicated to coastal restoration projects." In its latest budget proposal, the White House "calls for repealing the payments, saying they are 'unnecessary and costly' while benefiting only a 'handful of states.'" According to the article, "in the letter signed by 330 groups, the authors, who acknowledge the White House's efforts in helping the state recover from various disasters, criticize Obama's efforts to redirect the money."

DRAFT REVIEW FINDS OFFSHORE WELL STIMULATION TREATMENTS NOT EXPECTED TO SIGNIFICANTLY EFFECT SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL. The [Santa Maria \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/10, Swanston, 55K) reports on a draft environmental review conducted by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management found that "offshore well stimulation treatments, including acidizing and hydraulic fracturing (fracking), do not significantly impact environments in the Santa Barbara Channel's federal waters." In response, the Environmental Defense Center said the review "falls short in several fundamental respects," and EDC senior attorney Brian Segee said the finding "defies common sense," adding that the conclusion "is simply not credible."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

LAS VEGAS PROTEST PLANNED IN SUPPORT OF CLIVEN BUNDY. The [AP](#) (3/10, 853K) reports that “backers of a Nevada rancher at the center of a fight over control of public lands in the West are promising a show of support outside a U.S. courthouse where he’s facing charges that he led an armed standoff against federal agents two years ago.” According to the article, “Cliven Bundy’s wife and other family members and friends said this week the planned demonstration before Bundy’s court appearance on Thursday will show they’re keeping up their fight against the federal government.” The article says that “Nevada allows open-carrying of guns, and Las Vegas police and U.S. marshals said they expect some protesters will be armed, but will remain peaceful.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/10, Ritter, 881K).

Nevada Rancher Bundy Sold 1,300 Cattle Over Past Five Years. [Greenwire](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy “sold close to 1,300 cattle over the past five years and found business in a handful of states even as the federal government sought to purge his herd from public lands, according to state records.” Bundy “sold or transferred cattle to nearly two dozen recipients in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Kansas, according to branding records kept by Nevada’s Department of Agriculture.” According to the records, “nearly half the cattle were trucked about 100 miles northeast from Bundy’s Bunkerville ranch to an auction yard in Cedar City, Utah, and 165 cattle were shipped west to a sale yard near Bakersfield, Calif. Most cattle, about 800, ended up in Utah.”

Judge Denies Bail For New Hampshire Man In Nevada Standoff. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Siefer) reports that U.S. District Court Judge Andrea Johnstone has denied bail for Jerry DeLemus, who is accused of being a mid-level organizer in the 2014 Nevada ranch standoff.

UTAH BILL TARGETS PUBLIC-LAND LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 388K) reports that “a bill seeking to resolve conflicts between local, county and federal law enforcement agencies on who has the right to police public lands awaits the signature of Gov. Gary Herbert after it passed in the Senate.” Sen. David Hinkins, the Senate sponsor, “explained on the floor how law-enforcement agencies would interact under the bill.” He said, “HB391 sets up a procedure for a county sheriff to seek legal relief if ... duties are violated by the [Bureau of Land Management] or Forest Service.” According to the article, “local sheriffs would work with the Utah attorney general’s office in preparing a letter to the federal agencies stating demands and deciding on legal action if those demands are not sufficiently met.”

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY SOLD 1,300 CATTLE OVER PAST FIVE YEARS. [Greenwire](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy “sold close to 1,300 cattle over the past five years and found business in a handful of states even as the federal government sought to purge his herd from public lands, according to state records.” Bundy “sold or transferred cattle to nearly two dozen recipients in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and Kansas, according to branding records kept by Nevada’s Department of Agriculture.” According to the records, “nearly half the cattle were trucked about 100 miles northeast from Bundy’s Bunkerville ranch to an auction yard in Cedar City, Utah, and 165 cattle were shipped west to a sale yard near Bakersfield, Calif. Most cattle, about 800, ended up in Utah.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TWIN METALS MINE DEALT ANOTHER SETBACK. Additional coverage of the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/9, Henry, 862K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/9, 1.25M), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/9, 1.25M), the [MinnPost \(MN\)](#) (3/9, 8K), the [Cook-Or \(MN\) Timberjay](#) (3/9, 142), and [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (3/9, 456)..

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: LAWMAKERS WANT TO TAKE AWAY GUNS FROM FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS. Additional coverage that “Utah’s representatives in Congress are calling for federal land managers with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to give up their law enforcement authority” was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/9, 48K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (3/9, 404K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WESTERN GOVERNORS SCRUTINIZE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. [The Hill](#) (3/9, Cama, 862K) report that “a coalition of western state governors is considering formally backing legislation to shift power away from the federal government for endangered species protections.” At a forum Wednesday in Denver, Wyoming Gov.

Matt Mead said "it'd be premature to say whether the Western Governors Association will ask for changes to the 1973 Endangered Species Act." However, "the governors see the species law as ineffective, and want to see more species' protections handled like the sage grouse, which avoided formal protections last year in favor of state-led efforts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, Finley, 881K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/9, 290K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/9, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 8.98M), [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, 853K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Elliott, 285K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/9, 881K), [The East Oregonian](#) (3/9, 24K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/9, 31K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, 4.92M).

CONSERVATIONISTS PRESS FWS TO CONTINUE WOLF TRACKING. [E&E Publishing](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that five conservation groups on Wednesday pressed the FWS "to continue monitoring gray wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountains." The service has "been tracking changes in the wolves' abundance and distribution and threats to the population segment ever since Congress removed it from the endangered species list in a spending bill policy rider nearly five years ago." However, "the agency's post-delisting monitoring program is set to end in May." The conservationists, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, say FWS rules require continued monitoring.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/9, Ridler, 285K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/9, 78K), and [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/9, 2K).

FWS REJECTS TRAILS FOR LUXURY HOMES. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/9, 73K) reports that "a key amenity proposed for the Canyon Estates luxury home project involving hiking trails through American Canyon's eastern hillside has been nixed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service." The "trails ran afoul with federal biologists over their potential impacts on native species, one of which is considered 'threatened.'"

AUCTION HOUSE HEAD PLEADS GUILTY IN SMUGGLING CASE. The [Famagusta Gazette \(CYP\)](#) (3/9) reports that "a gallery and auction house official in Beverly Hills, California pleaded guilty to smuggling carvings and other items made from protected wildlife with an estimated worth of 1 million U.S. dollars." Joseph Chait, "a senior auction administrator of the I.M. Chait gallery and auction house, pleaded guilty to smuggling elephant ivory, rhinoceros horn and coral in a New York federal court, prosecutors said on Wednesday." Chait "could face up to 10 years in prison under two related charges."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS DISTRIBUTES \$1.1 BILLION TO STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES. Additional coverage that the FWS is distributing \$1.1 billion to state wildlife agencies under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts was provided by the [OutdoorHub](#) (3/9, 67K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES UPDATE TO MITIGATION POLICY. Additional coverage that the FWS has proposed an update to its mitigation policy was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication) and [JD Supra](#) (3/9, 5K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES TO LIFT GRIZZLY PROTECTION IN YELLOWSTONE AREA. Additional coverage that "a new proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could lead to the delisting of grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" was provided by the [Teton Valley \(ID\) News](#) (3/9, 7K), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (3/9, 33K), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (3/9, 1K), and [Care2](#) (3/9, 156K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ELEPHANTS FROM SWAZILAND BEING TRANSPORTED TO US ZOOS. Additional coverage that elephants from Swaziland are being transported to U.S. zoos in Omaha, Wichita and Dallas was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/9, Brulliard, 8.98M), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/10, 1.24M), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/9, Milman, 3.71M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REWARD OFFERED AFTER BALD EAGLE KILLED IN KENTUCKY. Additional coverage that the FWS is "offering a \$2,500 reward for information about the shooting of a bald eagle in western Kentucky" was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, 285K) and the [Northern Kentucky Tribune](#) (3/9).

National Park Service:

NPS FACES DIVERSITY CHALLENGE. [NPR](#) (3/9, 1.81M) reports that the NPS has “a diversity problem.” The park service “doesn’t track the demographics of its visitors, but the most recent survey commissioned by the Park Service to see how different population groups related to the parks found” that “collectively, minorities made up just over 20 percent of the visitors to national parks, despite the fact that they made up nearly 40 percent of the U.S. population.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis has “made increasing diversity at the national parks a top priority as the Park Service approaches its centennial.” His Call to Action plan — a vision for the organization’s future — states: “In our second century, we will fully represent our nation’s ethnically and culturally diverse communities.”

YELLOWSTONE BISON SENT TO SLAUGHTER AS PARK TRIMS HERD. The [AP](#) (3/9, Brown, Press, 1.99M) reports that Yellowstone National Park “started shipping many of its famous wild bison to slaughter Wednesday to drive down the size of the park’s herds and respond to concerns by the livestock industry over a disease carried by the animals.” According to the article, “thirty animals have been shipped to slaughterhouses, and officials plan to send an additional 63 in the next few days.” The AP says that “the park’s actions are driven by an agreement in 2000 with Montana officials that requires it to control its bison herds.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (3/9, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, 4.92M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/9, 352K).

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION AWARDS 2016 ACTIVE TRAILS GRANTS. The [Fayette \(WV\) Tribune](#) (3/9, 37) reports that New River Gorge National River is “one of 25 national parks selected to receive a 2016 Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America’s national parks.” According to the article, “through a unique partnership with Active Southern West Virginia, this grant will bring a multitude of wellness programming to Camp Brookside, an emerging environmental education center located in Summers County.” The money will “be used to both purchase equipment and train community volunteers to teach free public programs at Camp Brookside, including outdoor yoga, tai chi, stand up paddleboarding, fly fishing, archery and various guided hikes, including owl prowls, bird watches and plant identification hikes, in addition to wellness-focused and heritage-style cooking classes.”

NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK WRITTEN IN HONOR OF NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Daily Mail](#) (3/9, Dailymail.com, 4.92M) reports that “the daughter of former President George W. Bush teamed up with her mother Laura to write their new children’s book *Our great Big Backyard*.” Their book will be available in May in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the National Park Service.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO HOLD “MEET AND GREET” EVENT. The [Middlesboro \(KY\) Daily News](#) (3/9, 433) reports that Cumberland Gap National Historical Park will hold a Meet and Greet on March 11. According to the article, “as 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, school children and visitors will be able to connect with staff from other national parks – a mountain climbing ranger from Yosemite National Park, a river rafting ranger from Obed Wild and Scenic River, a musician ranger from New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, an architectural preservationist from the National Mall and Memorial Parks and archaeologists and scuba divers from the Submerged Resources Center – and learn how these trained professionals help protect these areas which Americans value.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GOOGLE CULTURAL INSTITUTE. Additional coverage of the Google Cultural Institute was provided by [WHSV-TV Harrisonburg, VA](#) (3/9, 25K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GRAND CANYON BISON HERD REDUCTION. Additional coverage that the NPS “released a plan Tuesday that calls for managing overpopulated bison herds within the Grand Canyon National Park” was provided by [AmmoLand](#) (3/9, 9K).

[Top National News:](#)

SOURCE: WHITE HOUSE INTERVIEWING FIVE POTENTIAL SUPREME COURT NOMINEES. [Reuters](#) (3/9, Edwards) reports the White House is interviewing five potential Supreme Court nominees according to a source familiar with the process. The individuals being considered are federal judges Sri Srinivasan, Jane Kelly, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Paul Watford, and Merrick Garland.

Obama Facing Pressure To Nominate Black Woman To Supreme Court. The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Markon, Horwitz, Debonis, 8.98M) reports black civil rights activists “are pressing” Obama to nominate a black woman to the Supreme Court, “calling it an overdue historic first at a time of growing ethnic diversity and an

intense debate about racial justice issues.” The Post says “the pressure had been building since Justice Antonin Scalia’s sudden death.” At a recent White House meeting, according to the Post, “a number of activists directly urged the president to nominate an African American woman, pointing out that they had supported him at the polls in overwhelming numbers.”

Poll: Voters Disagree With GOP Blocking Any Potential Supreme Court Nominee. [US News & World Report](#) (3/9, Levy, 853K) reports a new Wall Street Journal poll found congressional Republicans’ vow to block any Supreme Court nominee “shows the strategy may be backfiring.” According to the survey, 55 percent of registered voters disagree with the refusal to conduct hearings on a potential nominee. More than four-out-of-five of that 55 percent said they “strongly disapproved.”

Posner: Debate Shows Supreme Court Is “Politicized Court.” In a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) op-ed, US Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner says the significance of Republicans vowing to block any Supreme Court nominee “lies in reminding us that the Supreme Court is not an ordinary court but a political court, or more precisely a politicized court, which is to say a court strongly influenced in making its decisions by the political beliefs of the judges.”

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON EMERGES “UNSCATHED” FROM DEBATE WITH “REENERGIzed” SANDERS. Most media coverage does not cast Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders as the winner of their debate in Florida on Wednesday night, as reports cite positives in each of their performances. For example, while [Fortune](#) (3/9, Geier, 4.02M) said on its website Clinton “took a few hits” but “made her way through the event relatively unscathed,” a front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, A1, Balz, 8.98M) says while the debate once appeared “as if it might be an anticlimax as Clinton rolled toward the nomination,” Sanders “arrived reenergized and reinvigorated after his surprising victory in Michigan.” Immigration issues are seen as the primary topic discussed in the forum, which is described as “contentious,” and several reports note the candidates were critical of each other’s record on immigration as they clashed over who is the better advocate for Latinos.

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Healy, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) describes the debate as “contentious,” noting that Clinton and Sanders “clashed vividly over immigration reform and deportations” as they made “made aggressive appeals to Hispanic voters.” The Times adds that they were “a study in contrasts as they made stark appeals to the demographic groups they have come to prize.” The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (3/9, Bennett, Washington, 313K) says both “slammed” Donald Trump, with Sanders describing himself as “the strongest candidate to beat Donald Trump,” and Clinton “boast[ing] that she criticized Trump early in his candidacy.”

On its website, [Fortune](#) (3/9, Geier, 4.02M) said the debate was, “at times, more contentious than previous debates,” adding that Clinton “held her ground,” and “did a good job of standing up to Sanders when he directly attacked her record,” while Sanders “continued to position himself as the true progressive in the race, forcing Clinton to defend her positions on healthcare, student debt, and her ties to Wall Street.” [Politico](#) (3/9, Debenedetti, 1.07M) reported while Clinton wanted to debate Trump’s “extreme immigration proposals,” she was instead “locked in a sparring match” with Sanders, “as each litigated the other’s record on immigration reform and bailouts and lit into one another’s plans for healthcare reform and college tuition.”

A [Politico](#) (3/9, Strauss, 1.07M) analysis, which listed the “six most interesting moments” from the debate, said the forum marked Clinton’s “first opportunity to try and rebound” from her “surprising loss” in the Michigan primary. Similarly, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Fahrenthold, 8.98M) says Clinton, on the heels of her “stinging upset loss in the Michigan primary,” launched “sharp attacks” on Sanders, “criticizing him as too far left at some points, but also seeking to cast him as an ally of far-right militiamen on the subject of immigration.” The attacks, says the Post, were a sign Clinton “is not yet able to pivot toward a general-election matchup against Republicans” as she is “still trying to make a case against Sanders.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (3/9, Mazzei, 803K) said Florida was the “target audience” Wednesday night as the candidates “were asked about Cuba.” While both support the President’s “reestablished diplomatic relations...and lifting the trade embargo,” Clinton “used harsher language to describe Fidel and Raúl Castro” than Sanders, who “visited Cuba under the Castros several times.” The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/9, Man, Mayo, Clary, Ballou, 605K) also said Clinton and Sanders “reiterat[ed] their support for President Barack Obama’s decision to resume relations with Cuba.”

[USA Today](#) (3/9, Gaudiano, 5.45M) reports immigration was “the centerpiece of the debate as Sanders and Clinton got into a tight back-and-forth over various past positions.” [Reuters](#) (3/9, Oliphant, Lopez) notes the

candidates disagreed about who has the stronger commitment to immigration reform, and the AP New York (3/9, Benac, Lerer, 186K) says Clinton and Sanders “tangled repeatedly...over who’s a true advocate for Latinos and who has a track record of letting Hispanics down.” Clinton hit Sanders “for repeatedly voting against a 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill,” while Sanders hit Clinton “for opposing a 2007 effort to allow people who were in the country illegally to obtain driver’s licenses.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/9, Foley, 518K) noted that both “promised to not deport children or non-criminal undocumented immigrants, and criticized President Barack Obama for doing so.”

Former Obama Aides Debate Auto Bailout Attacks On Twitter. [Politico](#) (3/9, Gass, 1.07M) reported in its “Bernie v. Hillary” blog as Clinton and Sanders “debated the intricacies of the auto bailout, former aides to President Barack Obama clashed on Twitter over the subject.” Gene Sperling tweeted, “This is not disputable. Every penny that went to the auto bail out Bernie Sanders voted against. Not disputable.” Steve Rattner, who led the President’s auto industry task force in 2009, agreed, tweeting, “Clinton is right on auto bailout. If everyone had voted like Sanders, auto industry would have collapsed killing millions of jobs.” David Axelrod, took a different position, however, tweeting, “She did it again and I’ll say it again. It’s misleading to imply that TARP II was an auto bailout bill.”

TRUMP NEEDS 54% OF REMAINING DELEGATES TO GET TO 1,237. [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/9, story 2, 2:45, Jackson, 7.86M) reported in “a sign those establishment attacks aren’t working, not yet at least,” Trump “is racking up more delegates.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/9, story 4, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) said Trump “is looking like the inevitable Republican nominee after winning three of four states last night,” and a [New York Times](#) (3/9, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) analysis says GOP leaders’ chance of denying Trump the nomination “was a bit remoter on Wednesday,” following his victories in Michigan, Mississippi, and Hawaii. Trump, who “captured most of the 150 delegates at stake Tuesday,” now needs “about 54 percent of outstanding delegates; his closest rival, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, needs 62 percent.” [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) reports that analysts say “winning the Florida and Ohio primaries on Tuesday would give Trump an almost insurmountable path to the nomination.” In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (3/9, lead story, 3:40, Muir, 5.84M) reported Trump is “vowing, if he wins Ohio and Florida next, he’ll go for, in his words, a knockout.” Trump: “I see probably getting the delegates. You know, it’s like the fighters. That’s the ultimate way of doing it. You knock them out. If you knock them out, nothing can happen.”

In a [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Carson, 8.98M) op-ed, Ben Carson argues that as a Trump nomination appears more likely, the “GOP party faithful” can be expected to “pivot to the strategic interests of their down-ticket candidates this November.”

WTimes Analysis: Trump Will Be 74 Delegates Short Of Threshold For Nomination. In an analysis, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Hallow, 285K) says after “California and three other states count their votes from the last four primaries June 7,” Trump “will be 74 or so delegates short of the 1,237 majority needed for the nomination,” making it “increasingly unlikely that the Republican establishment...will carry through with plans to change the convention rules to wrest the nomination from Mr. Trump and hand it to an establishment-approved candidate.”

CNN/ORC, Quinnipiac Show Trump Leading In Florida And Ohio. A CNN/ORC poll released Wednesday shows Donald Trump leading Marco Rubio and John Kasich in their respective home states of Florida and Ohio ahead of next week primaries in those states. According to the poll, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Sherfinski, 285K) reports, Trump leads Rubio 40-24 in Florida, followed by Ted Cruz with 19%, and Kasich with 5%. In Ohio, Trump leads Kasich 41-35, with Cruz at 15% and Rubio at 7%. Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) says a Quinnipiac University survey “shows Trump leading Rubio 45-22%” in Florida.

Fox News Poll Shows Kasich Leading In Ohio. A Fox News poll, however, shows Kasich leading in Ohio with 34%, followed by Trump with 29%, Cruz with 19%, and Rubio with 7%, [The Hill](#) (3/9, Easley, 862K) reported in its “Ballot Box” blog.

Anti-Trump Groups Spending Millions On Ads In Florida, Illinois. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/9, Higgins, 289K) says a “torrent of cash” is being spent on political ads in Florida and Illinois ahead of their March 15 primaries. Kantar Media’s CMAG estimates that outside groups and campaigns “have committed \$9.2 million for ads in Florida for the seven-day period beginning March 8.” Conservative Solutions PAC, which backs Rubio, is responsible for \$4.3 million of that total, “underscor[ing] the do-or-die stakes for Rubio in Florida.” The group has “also committed \$1.4 million in Illinois.” Among other anti-Trump groups “spending heavily” are the American Future Fund, which has spent \$1.38 million on ads in Florida and \$765,000 in Illinois; Club for Growth, which is “slated to spend a total of \$2.4 million in Florida and Illinois”; and Our Principles PAC, which is “set to spend

\$1.4 million in commercials in the two states.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Peters, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Republican Party “is planning to make what could be its last stand” against Trump in Florida’s March 15 primary. The winner-take-all primary “figures to be a climactic moment,” as Trump’s candidacy “faces the biggest test yet of whether it is built to endure.” Meanwhile, Rubio “will have to decide whether he can stay in the race if he loses,” and Cruz “will see how far his efforts to chip away at the support of both rivals can go.” The Times says “much of the anti-establishment anger that [Rubio] rode to victory in the 2010 midterm elections is now working against him” as Trump and Cruz “are the anti-establishment now.”

Bush To Meet With Cruz, Rubio, Kasich This Week In Miami. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/9, Bender, 289K) reports a spokeswoman said Jeb Bush will meet with Rubio, Cruz, and Kasich in Miami this week. [USA Today](#) (3/9, King, 5.45M) says the meetings suggest Bush “may be ready to endorse one of Trump’s rivals in an effort to prevent the brash billionaire from capturing Florida and its coveted 99 delegates.”

O’Reilly Takes Issue With Portrayals Of Trump As Fascist. In his “Talking Points Memo” segment on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (3/9, 767K), Bill O’Reilly said “some in the media both left and right are portraying Mr. Trump as a 1930s-type fascist and his supporters as budding brown shirts,” and argued this is “a strategy with the intention of not only demeaning Trump but his supporters as well.” O’Reilly added, “The movement that Trump represents has nothing to do with fascism, everything to do with furious dissent. ... The cold truth is, charges of racism and fascism are easy smears designed to stop freedom of expression and stifle debate.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***“A Lesson In Hillary Clinton’s Loss In Michigan.”*** A [New York Times](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) editorial said Hillary Clinton’s “surprising loss in Michigan...holds some lessons about how to approach future contests.” While her candidacy “speaks eloquently of embracing the people, values and thinking that make this nation a leader in the world,” her “campaign tactics, particularly in Michigan, did not live up to this vision.” Although Clinton “may be annoyed at the continued challenge posed by” Bernie Sanders, he “is likely to remain in the contest to the end.” If Clinton becomes the Democratic nominee, she “must win over and energize his supporters,” and the Michigan results “suggest she has a ways to go.”

“How To Reduce Medicare Drug Costs.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/10, A22, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) says the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ proposed tests for Part B prescription drugs are “a reasonable attempt to get a handle on rising medical costs. The tests, which would take place in different parts of the country over five years, should provide valuable evidence about how changing incentives affects spending on health care.”

WASHINGTON POST. ***“Mr. Sanders Peddles Fiction On Free Trade.”*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) says Bernie Sanders is “doubling down on protectionism,” adding that his position “is built on bogus numbers that defy the overwhelming consensus among economists, and his solutions would do much more harm than good.” While Sanders’ “populist rhetoric doesn’t stand up to scrutiny,” the Post argues, “politically, it appears to be working,” and Hillary Clinton “has surrendered the issue by failing to stand up for the TPP.” Noting that Sanders “has the protectionists’ vote,” the Post says Clinton “would be wise to offer a positive alternative.”

“Caixin Media’s Display Of Courage Against China’s Censors.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) applauds Chinese news organization Caixin Media for its “courage” in refusing to back down to government intimidation. The government had ordered Caixin to remove an article for containing “illegal content.” That article quoted Jiang Hong, who advises the government on economic policy, as saying that “people like himself should feel free to give their opinions to party leaders” on policy, cultural, and societal issues. Though it took the article down, Caixin republished it Tuesday on its English-language website, “revealing the censorship, accompanied by a photograph of a mouth that had been sealed with tape.”

“Finally, An Action Plan For Metro.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/9, 8.98M) says new Metro general manager Paul Wiedefeld’s recent “passenger-friendly” updates to the public on the status of improvements deserve credit, but his communication “will not undo...underlying problems, let alone reverse years of poor management.” While Wiedefeld’s proposals include “enhanced accountability and transparency,” the Metro’s “fundamental structural challenges persist,” and the Metro board is still “too large and unwieldy and too susceptible to political pressures.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“Hillary’s Michigan Droop.”* An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says Hillary Clinton’s loss in the Michigan primary demonstrates that she is a weak candidate.

“Clinton’s Star Email Witness.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) says now that former State Department computer tech Bryan Pagliano, who set up Hillary Clinton’s private email server and who previously exercised his Fifth Amendment right not to testify, has been granted immunity, he should tell Congress what he knows about Clinton’s server. The Journal argues the public has a right to the information if Clinton wants to be the next president.

“Iran’s Moderates Go Ballistic.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorializes that a country that cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons also cannot be expected to honor an agreement to eliminate its nuclear program. The Journal says the Iranian missile program is an indication that the nuclear deal has increased Tehran’s military leverage.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

- [Free Trade Loses Political Favor](#)
- [Democrats Settle in for Long Presidential Contest](#)
- [Tracking the Mortgage-Crisis Settlements](#)
- [Twitter Bets on Payouts to Rein In Talent Flight](#)

New York Times:

- [Clinton And Sanders Clash On Immigration At Debate](#)
- [Clinton Giving Jobs And Trade New Emphasis](#)
- [Vote In Florida Tests Fortunes Of 3 In GOP](#)
- [After The Game, Women On Guard](#)
- [Life-Saving Tweak For Many Kidney Transplants](#)
- [Machine Masters Man In Complex Game Of Go](#)

Washington Post:

- [Scrappy Debate Signals Long Grind](#)
- [Rubio’s Fateful Error: A Strategy That Backfired](#)
- [Whitman Letter To Dying Soldier’s Family Uncovered At Archives](#)
- [Drug Defies A Rare Form Of Cancer — And Market Logic](#)
- [As Borders Close, Some Migrants Pin Hopes On A Hostile Hungary](#)
- [Clinton, Sanders Clash On Immigration](#)

Financial Times:

- [Senior Bankers Warn ECB Over Perils Of Negative Interest Rests](#)
- [Fears Rise Of New Oligarchy As Putin’s Childhood Friend Eyes Aeroflot Stake](#)

Washington Times:

- [Osama Bin Laden, Iran Shared Logistical Alliance, Intense Hatred Of US](#)
- [Catholic Priest Demands US Recognize Genocide Against Christians In Iraq, Syria](#)
- [Thousands Pay Tribute To Nancy Reagan At Presidential Library](#)
- [Sanders Exposes Clinton’s General Election Vulnerabilities In Michigan](#)
- [Court Case Pits ‘Motor-Voter’ Laws Against Citizenship IDs](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Seattle-Gas Explosion; Missouri-Murder Suspect Arrested; US Airstrikes Against ISIL; Pennsylvania-Armed Robbery Foiled; Bill Cosby Case; United Airlines-Seat Changes; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service.

CBS: Severe Weather; ISIL-Chemical Weapons; 2016 Politics-Democrats; 2016 Politics-Republicans; DC-Idaho Fugitive Arrested; Audi Seat Failure Lawsuit; Zika Virus Outbreak; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service.

NBC: Severe Weather; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Seattle-Gas Explosion; DC-Idaho

Fugitive Arrested; Iraq-ISIL Chemical Engineer Captured; Nancy Reagan Memorial Service; IRS Scam; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Solar Eclipse Sighting.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 15 minutes, 10 minutes
Severe Weather/Weather Forecast – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
ISIL – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
DC-Idaho Fugitive Arrested – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
Seattle-Gas Explosion – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
Nancy Reagan Memorial Service – 2 minutes, 50 seconds
Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Fiorina Endorses Cruz; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; Congress-Heroin Epidemic Bill; Severe Weather-Louisiana.
CBS: Severe Weather-Louisiana; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Pop Warner-Concussions Lawsuit Settlement.
FOX: Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Severe Weather; Texas-Death Row Inmate Executed; Cleveland Clinic-Uterus Transplant Failure; Boston Chipotle Reopens; Florida-Farmers Protest Wendy's Fast Food Chain; Wall Street.
NPR: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Pennsylvania Shooting Spree; NOAA-California Drought Report; New York-Alleged ISIL Recruit Arrested; Missouri-Religious Freedom Bill; North Korea To Liquidate South Assets.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama host Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau at the White House, for an Official Visit, including a State Dinner in their honor.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Joe Biden and Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden travel from Jerusalem, Israel, to Amman, Jordan, where the Vice President meets and holds a bilateral working lunch with King Abdullah II, while Dr. Biden visits a refugee camp. Vice President Biden and King Abdullah then attend a demonstration at the Joint Training Center, before the couple both have dinner with King Abdullah and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on healthcare CO-OPs – Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on 'Review of the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance CO-OP Program', with testimony from University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Healthcare Management Department Chair Dr. Scott Harrington; and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt, and Deputy Administrator Kevin Counihan. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

10:00 AM Acting Education Secretary King testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request for the US Department of Education', with testimony from Acting Secretary of Education John King. Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Elizabeth Drake, Jennifer Choe Groves, and Gary Stephen Katzmann to be US Court of International Trade Judges, and Clare Connors to be US District Judge for the District of Hawaii, as well as 'S. 247, Expatriate Terrorist Act', 'S. 2390, Federal Bureau of Investigation Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2015', 'S.2613, Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2016', and 'S.2614, Kevin and Avonte's Law of 2016' * Postponed from 3 Mar. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224

7703.

10:00 AM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on commercial applications of drones – Hearing on 'Up in the Air: Examining the Commercial Applications of Unmanned Aircraft for Small Businesses', with testimony from Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne; Air Line Pilots Association International President Tim Canoll; Mercatus Center at George Mason University Technology Policy Program Director Eli Dourado; Physical Sciences Vice President for Disruptive Technologies Dr. Thomas Vaneck; and Pepperdine University Professor of Law / AirMap co-founder Dr. Gregory McNeal. Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on USSTRATCOM, USNORTHCOM, and USSOUTHCOM budgets – Hearing on 'United States Strategic Command, United States Northern Command, and United States Southern Command Programs and Budget', with testimony from US Strategic Command Commander Adm. Cecil Haney; US Northern Command Commander and North American Aerospace Defense Command Commander Adm. William Gortney; and US Southern Command Commander Adm. Kurt Tidd. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Armed Services Committee 1 202 224 3871.

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Catherine Ann Novelli to be Alternate US Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Karen Brevard Stewart to be Ambassador to the Marshall Islands; Amos Hochstein to be Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources; Robert Annan Riley III to be Ambassador to Micronesia; Matthew John Matthews for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as US Senior Official for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum; and Marcela Escobari to be USAID Assistant Administrator, plus consideration of legislation including 'S. 1252, Global Food Security Act of 2015', 'S. Res 375, A resolution raising awareness of modern slavery', 'S. Res. 388, A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day', and 'S. Res. 383, A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation'. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651. Immediately followed by nominations hearing.

10:00 AM National Council of La Raza release results from survey of Latino community influencers – National Council of La Raza release results from a survey of Latino community influencers – conducted by Latino Decisions and sponsored by Telemundo – at a press forum on 'Voices from Latino Community Influencers: Taking the Pulse of the Latino Vote' held as part of its Latino Voter Summit. Forum features the survey results and a panel of community leaders, and is a joint effort between NCLR's #LatinosVote and Telemundo's #YoDecido campaigns. Speakers/participants include Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, Latino Decisions Senior Analyst and Evaluation Specialist Blanca Guillen-Woods, Hispanas Organizadas de Lake and Ashtabula (HOLA) Executive Director Veronica Dahlberg, Centro Hispano Executive Director Mike Toledo, and NCLR Deputy Vice President Clarissa Martinez-de-Castro. Location: Rm 188, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.nclr.org <https://twitter.com/NCLR>. Contacts: Julian Teixeira NCLR Communications Director jteixeira@nclr.org 1 202 776 1812. Media interested in attending the forum should RSVP to Gaby Gomez at ggomez@nclr.org or (202) 776-1732.

10:15 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Christine Ann Elder to be Ambassador to Liberia; R. David Harden to be USAID Assistant Administrator; Elizabeth Holzhall Richard to be Ambassador to Lebanon; Stephen Michael Schwartz to be Ambassador to Somalia; Adam Sterling to be Ambassador to Slovakia; Kelly Keiderling-Franz to be Ambassador to Uruguay; and Mark Sobel to be US Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651. Immediately follows earlier business meeting.

10:30 AM NASA Administrator Bolden testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the National Aeronautics and Space Agency', with testimony from NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

11:00 AM VA Secretary McDonald testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'17 and FY'18 budgets

– Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing ‘To review the Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 budget request for the US Department of Veterans Affairs’, with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald; Veterans Health Administration Under Secretary David Shulkin; and Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Under Secretary Danny Pummill. Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>. Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

2:30 PM HUD Secretary Castro testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY’17 budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing ‘To review the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request and funding justification for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’, with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro; and HUD Inspector General David Montoya. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>. Contacts: Senate Appropriations Committee 1 202 224 7363.

US House: 11:30 AM House of Representatives meetings in pro forma session * House is on recess from 4 Mar – 14 Mar, Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/> Contacts: House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945.

4:00 PM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi meets Canadian PM Trudeau – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi meets Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with a photo opportunity at the top. Location: H-207, US Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>. Contacts: Drew Hammill House Minority Leader press Democratic. Leader@mail.house.gov 1 202 226 7616. Cameras must be pre-set for a security sweep by 3:00 pm * Press must RSVP to ned.adriance@mail.house.gov.

Other: 8:00 AM New America / Arizona State University annual Future of War Conference – New America / Arizona State University annual Future of War Conference. Speakers include US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, US Army Training and Doctrine Command’s Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, King’s College London Emeritus Professor of War Studies Sir Lawrence Freedman, former Assistant Secretary of Defense Sharon Burke, former National Security Council Director for Iraq Douglas Ollivant, ‘Newsweek’ Middle East Editor Janine di Giovanni, Caerus Global Solutions founder and Chairman David Kilcullen, Foreign Policy Contributing Editor Tom Ricks, Yale University Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence Director Stathis Kalyvas, former EU Special Representative for Afghanistan’s Deputy Director Michael Semple, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Special Advisor Nir Rosen, and New America President and CEO Anne-Marie Slaughter, Vice President Peter Bergen, and Strategist and Senior Fellow Peter Singer. Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/> [#FutureofWar](https://twitter.com/NatSecNAF). Contacts: New America 1 202 986 2700.

8:15 AM ‘Washington Women Speak: Celebrating Women in Military’ event – ‘Washington Women Speak: Celebrating Women in Military’ event, hosted by Grant Thornton and the Association of Government Accountants Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia Chapters. Panelists include Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Heidi Grant, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Education and Training Anne Davis, US Coast Guard Rear Admiral Adm. Cari Thomas, Office of the Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office Director Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, and IMF Deputy Project Director Carol Holland. Location: Women in Military Service for America Theater, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA www.grantthornton.com/events/public-sector/2016/03-10-washington-women-speak.aspx <https://twitter.com/GrantThornton>. Contacts: Betsy Holahan Great Point Strategies bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com.

8:30 AM NHTSA Administrator Rosekind holds final meeting to discuss ‘spike in roadway deaths’ – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration hosts national gathering of top transportation officials, academic leaders, public health and safety experts, and traffic safety professionals to tackle human behavioral issues that contribute to 94% of crashes, following a series of regional summits across the nation, in the wake of an NHTSA estimate of traffic deaths during the first nine months of 2015 that revealed ‘a sharp increase after years of declines’. NHTSA Administrator Dr. Mark Rosekind also announces the agency’s vision for improving traffic safety over the next 25 years. Location: Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC <http://www.dot.gov/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/usdot>. Contacts: Department of Transportation Public Affairs public.affairs@dot.gov 1 202 366 9550. Space is extremely limited.

10:00 AM Americans for Limited Government release poll on voter attitudes towards TPP – Americans for

Limited Government release new poll by Pat Caddell on voter attitudes toward international trade and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, via NPC news conference with Caddell, Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions and Americans for Limited Government President Rick Manning. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.GetLiberty.org <https://twitter.com/LimitGovt>. Contacts: Robert Romano Americans for Limited Government media@limitgov.org 703 383 0880 x 16.

10:30 AM Wilson Center discussion with Kazakhstani secretary of state – Wilson Center Director's Forum discussion on 'Looking Forward', with Kazakhstani Secretary of State and National Commission for Women's Affairs and Family and Demographics Policy Chairwoman Gulshara Abdykalikova and Deputy Foreign Minister Yerzhan Ashikbayev. Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>. Contacts: Woodrow Wilson Center wwics@wilsoncenter.org 1 202 691 4000.

5:00 PM Korean Ambassador to the UN speaks at GW on sustainable development – Korean Ambassador to the UN Oh Joon delivers George Washington University School of Business' Korean Management Institute lecture on UN sustainable development goals. Location: Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>. Contacts: Jason Shevrin GWU jshevrin@gwu.edu 1 202 994 5631.

6:30 PM SCOTUS Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg receives Champions for Change Award for Vision – International Center for Research on Women 2016 Champions for Change Award Ceremony and Reception, honoring US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with the Champions for Change Award for Vision. Denmark Ambassador to the US Amb. Lars Gert Lose opens the ceremony. Location: Residence of the Danish Ambassador, 3200 Whitehaven St NW, Washington, DC www.icrw.org. Contacts: Erin Kelly ICRW press ekelly@icrw.org 1 571 265 1110.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to Donald Trump's Tuesday appearance at a press conference in Florida] "Trump was upset that Mitt Romney said a bunch of his business ventures failed, so he set these tables up on stage to showcase some of his many products. There's the water and the wine and the meat. Is this Fox News or QVC?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "Yeah, they're up on the stage next to him as he spoke. It's like he made a trip to Costco right before the speech. Boy did Chris Christie pick the wrong night to be on that stage, huh?"

Stephen Colbert: "President Obama just had a physical, and we found out this morning from White House doctors – this is absolutely true – in the past two years, President Obama has grown half an inch. He's 54 years old. That is very late for puberty to kick in. I'm not sure if that's a change I can actually believe in. ... Is Obama trying to make himself look bigger to intimidate Congress, like how a lizard puffs out its neck frill? Or maybe he's just fudging his height so he can ride the White House roller coaster."

Stephen Colbert: "Every two years, the President gets a physical. I guess the Vice President asks for it to make sure the President is still alive."

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Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Basin and Range National Monument Photos

2 messages

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 2:00 PM

To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Nathan Adams <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>

Photos available - let me know if this album should be public?

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/usinterior/97Ts86>

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 2:46 PM

To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Nathan Adams <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>

Yes please.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jessica Kershaw
Senior Adviser & Press Secretary
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

RE: Hi there!

3 messages

LISA MYERS <LISA.MYERS@patagonia.com>

Mon, Oct 26, 2015 at 3:46 PM

To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, "tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi,

Thank you so much for sharing these photos with me Jessica. Tami, they are incredible! It was such a pleasure to get to meet you both. It was great to talk with Adam and let him know I had the opportunity to meet you all. I am still on a high from the tour of City and the opportunity to meet so many dedicated people that played such significant roles in the monument. I would absolutely love a signed copy of the photo of the Secretary and me! The photo number is DOI_6746 and here is my info:

Lisa Myers

Patagonia

259 W. Santa Clara St.

Ventura CA 93001

One more question for you - I am planning to write a short blog post for our employee intranet. If I give the proper credit to Tami, would it be possible to use one or two of these? If not, I have a few to fall back on.

Jessica - you made a wonderful comment about Basin and Range now being permanently protected that reminded me of a favorite quote of mine from John Muir, "This grand show is eternal" - thanks to the bold leadership of the DOI and the dedicated, passionate folks who were present last weekend.

If either of you ever need a break from DC and a dose of sun, you have an open invitation to come here to Ventura and I'll give you the full tour of our headquarters here at Patagonia. I know Adam would love to see you all as well!

Thank you,

Lisa

Lisa Myers

Environmental Grants Manager

Patagonia

805-667-4683

www.patagonia.com/enviro

From: Kershaw, Jessica [mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 2:03 PM

To: LISA MYERS <LISA.MYERS@patagonia.com>

Subject: Hi there!

Hi Lisa -

Dropping you a line to say that it was great to meet you last week at City and I hope you had safe travels home from NV. I'm thinking you're bracing from some expected effects of Hurricane Patricia barreling up on the Pacific coast....but until then enjoying the Ventura sun!

So jealous...

I also wanted to share a link to Tami's photos (perhaps she shared w/you previously) so that if you'd like a signed photo of you and the Secretary (and there's a great one in there of you two!), you can get it.

Check out the photos here and enjoy!

Best,

Jessica

To view the photos click on the link and use the password to access the photos.

<https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-FznPH3>

Password (b) (5)

For reprints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_hellemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

—

Jessica Kershaw

Senior Adviser & Press Secretary

U.S. Dept of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

202-208-6416

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
To: LISA MYERS <LISA.MYERS@patagonia.com>
Cc: "tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Oct 26, 2015 at 4:06 PM

I would LOVE to visit Ventura and take you up on that tour recommendation! I'll keep that in mind for sure :)

Not a problem from my perspective to issue a blog post from our time at City however I defer to Tami on the use of her photos.

Hope you didn't get soaked from Hurricane Patricia!

Jessica

[Quoted text hidden]

LISA MYERS <LISA.MYERS@patagonia.com>
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Oct 26, 2015 at 4:11 PM

Patricia was unexpectedly kind – thank goodness. I actually haven't seen a drop of rain since I left Basin and Range. We sure need it though – but perhaps in the form of a long drizzle, instead of hurricanes or flash floods!

Lisa Myers

Environmental Grants Manager

Patagonia

805-667-4683

www.patagonia.com/enviro

From: Kershaw, Jessica [mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 1:07 PM
To: LISA MYERS <LISA.MYERS@patagonia.com>
Cc: tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Hi there!

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Pictures from last week's Basin and Range Celebration

3 messages

Christian Gerlach <christian.gerlach@sierraclub.org>

Mon, Oct 26, 2015 at 8:47 PM

To: Taheilemann@ios.doi.gov

Dear Department of the Interior Photographer Heilemann,

I appreciate you having captured such a "monumental" event On Saturday October 17th at the Springs Preserve. Allow myself to introduce myself. My name is Christian Gerlach, and I work for the Sierra Club and worked a lot on the designation of Basin and Range. I am reaching out to you today to see if you would kindly send me the link and log-in to get the copies of the pictures of the event our Sierra Club volunteers and I came out in. I greatly appreciate your help in this matter.

Best regards,

--



Christian Francisco Gerlach | Organizing Representative | Sierra Club's Our Wild America Campaign |

[Like Us](#) | [Follow Us](#) | [Pin Us](#) | [Read Our Blogs](#) | [And Send Us Your Pictures](#)

Cell 702.271.6485 | Office 702.732.7750 | 2330 Paseo Del Prado #109 Las Vegas, NV 89102

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 12:13 PM

To: Christian Gerlach <christian.gerlach@sierraclub.org>

The link below are photos for your viewing, feel free to share.

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/doiphotoq/9L30e4>

For reprints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793. Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

Christian Gerlach <christian.gerlach@sierraclub.org>

Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 6:52 PM

To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you again Tami!!!

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Pictures from the Basin and Range Celebration Ceremony

2 messages

Herder, Michael <mherder@blm.gov>
To: tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov

Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 5:40 PM

Hi Tami,

Do you have a link to the photos from the Basin and Range National Monument Celebration at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas on Saturday, October 17th? I had the opportunity to have my picture taken with the Secretary and Alicia Styles, our Monument Manager. I sure would like to get a copy of that photo. Thanks.

—
Michael Herder
District Manager
BLM Ely District
HC33 Box 33500,
Ely, NV 89301
775-289-1840 Office
775-293-1778 Cell

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Herder, Michael" <mherder@blm.gov>

Thu, Oct 29, 2015 at 10:34 PM

The link below are photos for your viewing, feel free to share.

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/doiphotog/9L30e4>

For reprints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793. Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

SNPLMA Signing 01-06-16 photos on Flickr

11 messages

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:38 AM
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Leah Duran <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>, Rachael Johnson <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Nathan Adams <nathan_adams@ios.doi.gov>, Steve Tryon <stryon@blm.gov>, Peter Mali <pmali@blm.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Daniel DuBray <ddubray@usbr.gov>

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskrwTFB7>

If you all could send me additional information to add to the photo album?
Thanks

Johnson, Rachael <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:43 AM
To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Tammi,

The release is attached + event memo.

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Rachael Johnson
Senior Writer
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-2570
Cell: (202) 836-2593

2 attachments

1-6-15 BLM SNPLMA signing press release FINAL.docx
88K

1 6 16 SNPLMA event memo signing.docx
46K

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:51 AM
To: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you, I added info to the photos
[Quoted text hidden]

Bokar, Emily <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 12:23 PM
To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

thank you!

How is updating Flickr going? Can you give me an update on where things stand with adding captions, credits

and tags and how far back you've gotten? It would be great if you could keep me posted on a regular basis on how it's going. I appreciate you working on it.

Emily

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:38 AM, Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:10 PM
To: "Bokar, Emily" <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>

Yes, I have been updating.
[Quoted text hidden]

Bokar, Emily <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:25 PM
To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Great. How far back have you gotten?
[Quoted text hidden]

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:51 PM
To: "Bokar, Emily" <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>

halfway thru 2015
[Quoted text hidden]

Bokar, Emily <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 1:52 PM
To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Awesome!!!!!! Thank you, Tami.
[Quoted text hidden]

Tryon, Steve <stryon@blm.gov> Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 2:57 PM
To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Tami,

Would it be possible for Kelly Orr and myself to get a copy of the photo you took of us with SJ, Neil, and Tom Tidwell?

We would like a copy for our personal photo collections, not for distribution, but just for us.

Thanks for what you do!

st

Steve Tryon
Senior Advisor (Acting)
BLM Office of the Director
202-208-0469

On Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 10:38 AM, Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jan 7, 2016 at 12:29 PM

To: "Tryon, Steve" <stryon@blm.gov>

Hi

Attached are the digital images. I will have a photo printed and signed by the Secy for you all as well.

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments



2574.jpg
417K



2575.jpg
427K

Tryon, Steve <stryon@blm.gov>

Thu, Jan 7, 2016 at 12:41 PM

To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Kelly Orr <korr@blm.gov>

Thanks a lot, Tami. That means a lot to both Kelly and myself!!

st

Steve Tryon
Senior Advisor (Acting)
BLM Office of the Director
202-208-0469

[Quoted text hidden]



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Washington, D.C., Office • 1849 C Street N.W. • Washington, D.C.

Release date:
January 6, 2015

Contact: Lissa Eng
(202) 912-7630

Secretary Jewell Announces Nearly \$40 Million for Conservation, Wildfire Prevention, Landscape Restoration and Recreation Projects in Nevada

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today announced the U.S. Department of the Interior will invest \$39.1 million from the sale of public lands in Southern Nevada to fund more than 40 projects to improve recreation, reduce the risk of wildfires, conserve sensitive landscapes and restore important wildlife habitat throughout the state. Joining the Secretary for a signing ceremony to finalize the agreement were U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Estevan López.

“Thanks to productive partnerships at every level of government, these projects will restore and enhance Nevada’s natural beauty and unique landscapes while improving the quality of life for millions of people in the state,” Secretary Jewell said. “This year’s funding will make landscapes more resilient in the face of longer wildfire seasons, create economic opportunities through increased outdoor recreation, and enhance protections for environmentally and culturally sensitive areas.”

The 43 projects announced today are funded under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act to encourage environmental sustainability, community collaboration and wildlife connectivity. The Act allows proceeds from sales of U.S. public land in the Greater Las Vegas area (Clark County) to fund a range of conservation, restoration, capital improvement, and public improvement projects throughout the state. The revenue derived from land sales is divided among the State of Nevada General Education Fund, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the remainder derives from a specific account available to the Secretary of the Interior for these recreation and conservation projects. Since the law’s enactment in 1998, the program has raised \$3.5 billion for more than 1,200 projects that benefit public places in Nevada.

“Today’s announcement marks the latest chapter in a successful collaboration that invests in Nevada’s special areas,” BLM Director Neil Kornze said. “Thanks to this outstanding program, Nevada has benefited from more than 180,000 acres of wildlife habitat restored and 500 miles of popular trails constructed or improved. This program is an important legacy for Nevada and for our nation’s public lands.”

The funding announced today includes \$39.1 million for projects in the following categories:

- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention - \$5,740,970

- Parks, Trails & Natural Areas - \$4,753,487
- Capital Improvements - \$5,193,251
- Conservation Initiatives - \$5,737,540
- Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions - \$12,230,400
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project - \$4,155,412
- Multi-Species Habitat Conservation - \$1,291,523

The Round 15 package also includes \$3 million in a special account reserve for emergency or unexpected project expenditures. More information on the Round 15 funding is online at www.blm.gov/snplma.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.

--BLM--

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

**SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT (SNPLMA) ROUND 15
SIGNING CEREMONY**

DATE: Wednesday, January 6, 2016
LOCATION: Secretary's Office
TIME: 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
FROM: Peter Mali, Acting Deputy Assistant Director, Communications, BLM,
202-208-5207
Neil Kornze, Director, BLM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this event is to sign the decision document for Round 15 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA). The decision document includes a recommendation to fund 43 projects for a total of \$42 million, including \$3 million from the Special Account Reserve. This is the highest amount recommended for approval since 2011. The decision document also includes a request for approval for funding to support the Basin and Range National Monument, and approval of a revised list of projects that can be considered for funding in the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act category.

The event will highlight how the projects improve the quality of life for individuals and communities in Nevada and benefit public lands throughout the State and in the Lake Tahoe and Lake Mead areas. The signing ceremony will include YOU, the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and the Directors of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation (or their high-level designees). YOU will sign the Round 15 Decision Document.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- You
- Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Denise Ryan, Deputy Director, National Park Service
- Steve Guertin, Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service
- Estevan Lopez, Commissioner (*invited*), Bureau of Reclamation – TBD
- Tom Tidwell, Chief, U.S. Forest Service
- Glenn Cassamassa, Assoc. Deputy Chief, Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service
- Ryan McGuinness, Governor Sandoval's DC representative
- Tami Heilemann, Department of the Interior photographer

AGENDA

10:00 AM – Informal gathering
10:05 AM – Opening remarks and introduction by BLM Director Neil Kornze

- 10:10 AM – Your Remarks
- 10:13 AM – Remarks by NPS Deputy Director Ryan *(TBD)*
- 10:16 AM – Remarks by FWS Deputy Director Guertin *(TBD)*
- 10:19 AM – Remarks by BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez *(TBD)*
- 10:23 AM – Remarks by U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell
- 10:25 AM – You sign the SNPLMA Round 15 Decision Document
- 10:27 AM – Group photo of event participants
- 10:30 AM – Event concludes. Press release about the event to follow.

The BLM Director will open the ceremony with remarks focusing on the history of SNPLMA, the general project categories and the importance SNPLMA to local communities in NV. He will then introduce the Secretary who will provide remarks about overall importance of SNPLMA to the State of Nevada economy focusing on Round 15 and the total amount of funding allocated to the state since the law came into effect. Each agency director can comment on the importance of SNPLMA to their respective agencies.

IV. TALKING POINTS

Talking points provided by O/S Communications attached.

V. KEY FACTS ABOUT SNPLMA

SNPLMA became law in October 1998 and authorizes the Bureau of Land Management to sell public lands within a specified boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. The revenue generated from the land sales is split between the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5%), the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10%), and a special account (85%) available to the Secretary of the Interior for:

- Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas
- Capital Improvements
- Conservation Initiatives
- Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)
- Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project
- Lake Tahoe Restoration Projects

Other provisions in SNPLMA direct certain land sale and acquisition procedures direct the BLM to convey title of land in the McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County and provide for the sale of land for affordable housing.

VI. BACKGROUND

- As of August 10, 2015, the total revenue generated from land sales and interest is approximately \$3,501,247,000, of which \$3,028,478,000 has been deposited into the Special Account. The majority of this revenue has been allocated to projects through

SNPLMA Rounds 1-14. If Round 15 is approved, the balance remaining in the Special Account for future allocations will be approximately \$245,400,000.

- For each round of SNPLMA, the SNPLMA Executive Committee submits a recommendation to the Secretary. The SNPLMA Executive Committee is comprised of the BLM Nevada State Director John Ruhs (Chair), the National Park Service Pacific West Deputy Regional Director Martha Lee, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Intermountain Region Deputy Regional Forester Nan Christianson, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Southwest Regional Director Ren Lohofener. For approval by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture must submit a letter of concurrence.
- For Round 15, the BLM received 60 project nominations totaling over \$64 million. The final recommendation to YOU includes 43 projects totaling \$ \$39,102,583, and \$3 million for a Special Account Reserve (SAR). The SAR is used to cover unexpected shortfalls between estimated and actual costs for approved projects or to provide funds for emergency projects; a SAR has been approved for each prior round of SNPLMA. The final recommendation incorporates input from each agency represented on the SNPLMA Executive Committee, as well as from the Bureau of Reclamation, state and local governments, and the public through a public review and comment process.

The Basin and Range National Monument was designated too late for the project proposal to be incorporated into the regular Round 15 recommendation process; as such, this project is not included in the table of Round 15 projects, but is included in the overall Round 15 package. The project request is for \$408,000 from the Round 14 Special Account Reserve to initiate steps toward a management plan, develop visitor education and use materials, survey the monument boundary, and help ensure site protection.

- The revised secondary list of projects for the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act category is being included to account for changes in the list of priority projects since this category was established in 2003. In 2003, \$300 million was made available for this category to restore and protect water, air, and forest resources throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. The full \$300 million has already been allocated. As projects close and unused funds are returned, the secondary list of projects is used to help guide how those funds should be spent. Since the revised list includes three new projects, Secretarial approval is required.
- Projects that are recommended for funding include the following (for a complete listing of recommended projects and a description of each, see the attached document, "Round 15 Project Summary Document"):
 - Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention - \$5,740,970
 - The California State Parks will implement thinning and prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels on approximately 107 acres at D.L. Bliss State Park to restore and improve forest resources, watershed resources,

- sensitive wildlife habitat, and to protect visitors and park infrastructure from the threat of catastrophic wildfire.
- The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) will reduce hazardous fuels on at least 135 acres but not more than 514 acres of private and local government-owned land in the wildland urban interface of Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay, and Meeks Bay, California, to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health.
 - The Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office, will reduce wildfire risk and increase resilience and sustainability by reducing hazardous fuels and treating invasive plant species on up to 2,000 acres of National Landscape Conservation System lands at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Block 1 of the “Spring Mountains Multi-jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy 10 Year Plan.
- Parks, Trails & Natural Areas - \$4,753,487
 - Clark County Parks and Recreation proposes construction of an outdoor education and nature connection center in the Nature Preserve of the Clark County Wetlands Park. The project will be designed to encourage kids in the adjacent urban neighborhoods to play outdoors, provide interpretive and educational experiences for visitors of all ages, and connect visitors to nature while teaching the importance of natural resource protection, conservation, and preservation.
 - The City of Caliente will construct up to five miles of non-motorized multi-purpose trail and a trailhead with a skill/pump track park in Caliente, Nevada. (A pump track is a continuous loop of round bumps and banked turns for practicing riding skills.) The project will serve as both a community health resource for local residents and act as an economic engine to attract visitors to the area.
 - Capital Improvements - \$5,193,251
 - (BLM) Lincoln County Partners Non-Motorized Multipurpose Trail System-- construct approximately 12 to 20 miles of sustainable non-motorized multi-purpose trails and signage on BLM-managed public lands and develop a trailhead. All construction will include compliance with Federal accessibility requirements and employ sustainable design where practical.
 - The Fish and Wildlife Service will improve outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge in Lincoln County, Nevada (a part of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex).

- (BOR) Hoover Dam - Memorial Bridge Plaza Upgrades and Safety Enhancements project will install a safety railing on the switchback trail at the Memorial Bridge Plaza. The Memorial Bridge Plaza and its switchback trail provide the only portal to the view of the Hoover Dam and the Colorado River available from the Bridge Walkway along the Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge. Since the site opened in 2011, approximately 1,500,000 visitors stop at the site annually.
- (NPS) Stargazing Theater, Science Camp, and Day Use Area Refurbishment--The Great Basin National Park in White Pine County, Nevada will enhance existing facilities by modifying the day-use picnic area to include an outdoor amphitheater dedicated to astronomy viewing and for use as a gathering area for a science camp, in order to centralize and augment outreach programs involving youth and academic research endeavors.
- Conservation Initiatives - \$5,737,540
 - The Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District Office will develop a graffiti-removal program that will be shared with other Federal agencies in an effort to address damage to rock art sites in southern Nevada.
 - The Fish and Wildlife Service will protect rock writing (petroglyphs and pictographs) and other cultural resources within Black Canyon in the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge in Lincoln County, Nevada. The project will provide safe access for visitors with a parking area and trails to view the rock writing.
 - The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement programs by using volunteers to help identify concerns and direct ground response.
 - The Bureau of Land Management Ely District Office will implement large-scale restoration plans in the Mojave Desert to restore and protect habitat for the desert tortoise, a federally threatened species.
- Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions - \$12,230,400
 - The Bureau of Land Management will acquire approximately 14,522 acres of vacant land located in the Pine Nut Mountain Planning Management Unit of the Bi-State Action Plan, to consolidate federal ownership and management for the protection of Bi-State Sage-grouse habitat, cultural resources, riparian areas, and other wildlife habitat, as well as for the improvement of public access. Approximately 9,522 acres contain Sage-grouse habitat.

- The U.S. Forest Service will acquire approximately 8.2 acres, comprised of three legal parcels in the Lee Canyon area of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area to consolidate federal ownership and prevent additional development of the parcels. The acquisition will provide a net benefit for 25 endemic and sensitive species within the Spring Mountains Natural Area.
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project - \$4,155,412
 - The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office will conduct restoration on approximately 1,500 acres within the Lake Valley Watershed to improve habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse by reducing conifer expansion within the Southern Great Basin Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), expanding Preliminary General Habitats into adjacent transitional habitat, and restoring and enhancing sagebrush ecological communities.
 - The National Park Service, Great Basin National Park, will treat approximately 258 acres of sagebrush, 15 acres of aspen, and 27 acres of riparian ecosystems and control annual grasses on approximately 400 acres to restore low resistant and resilient sagebrush vegetation to maintain naturally functioning, sustainable landscapes of healthy sagebrush rangelands and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.
 - The U.S. Forest Service, Ely Ranger District, will treat approximately 3,000 acres of pinyon-juniper to restore sagebrush ecosystems, improve sage-grouse and other wildlife habitats, and reduce hazardous fuels to prevent catastrophic wildfire in the Current-Ellison Project Area on the Ely Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in White Pine County, Nevada. This project will also treat noxious weeds on approximately 300 acres per year for three years, construct or improve two riparian exclosures and associated water developments, and reduce sedimentation through the repair and rehabilitation of up to 20 miles of roads and trails.
- Multi-Species Habitat Conservation (MSHCP) - \$1,291,523
 - The Clark County Desert Conservation Program will implement desert tortoise monitoring using line distance sampling within Clark County, Nevada. This project will generate three yearly estimates of Mojave Desert tortoise population density over a five-year period within the Boulder City Conservation Easement, and the following four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: Gold Butte, Mormon Mesa, Piute-Eldorado Valley, and Coyote Springs.
 - The Clark County Desert Conservation Program will conduct riparian habitat restoration on the Clark County Virgin River Riparian Reserve

Unit in Clark County, Nevada to restore and enhance habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and other covered riparian birds as part of the implementation of Clark County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Talking Points

Attachment 2: Press Release

Attachment 3: Round 15 Project Summary Document



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Tami travel

3 messages

Bokar, Emily <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Oct 1, 2015 at 2:26 PM
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Booch --

Here are the trips we'd like to have Tami accompany the Secretary:

Waco
Oklahoma
San Antonio
Basin & Range

Thank you!

Emily

Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Oct 1, 2015 at 2:32 PM
To: "Bokar, Emily" <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry McNellis <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks, Emily.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling and Advance
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5723 (direct)

***All scheduling requests for Secretary Jewell should be sent to scheduling@ios.doi.gov

McNellis, Kerry <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Oct 1, 2015 at 2:35 PM
To: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Bokar, Emily" <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Awesome, thanks.

I'll have Tim book Tami's travel.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Kerry J. McNellis
Special Assistant for Advance
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov | C: 202-809-2193



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

SOI CA 031916.pdf

2 messages

William Mcintee <william_mcintee@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>


Fri, Mar 18, 2016 at 8:38 PM


Hey Tami,

Attached is the final schedule for tomorrow. I put a copy in your room as well. I'm leaving for Cowboy Camp at 5:30am if you'd like to go early, but it's probably not necessary since we're just eating breakfast when you arrive. Let me know if you want to join me though.

Thanks,
Will

2 attachments

 **noname.txt**
1K

 **SOI CA 031916.pdf**
209K

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: William Mcintee <william_mcintee@ios.doi.gov>

Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 2:55 AM

Thanks for the info might see you in the morning.

[Quoted text hidden]

> Sent from my iPhone
> <SOI CA 031916.pdf>



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Berryessa tweet

5 messages

Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 7:56 PM
To: rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov
Cc: amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

- Celebrating new Berryessa Snow Mtn Natl Monument. Thanks to supporters for yrs of work to protect this special place.SJ [multiple pics from event]

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 8:57 PM
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Tami,

Could you send a pic or two for the tweet?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Date: March 19, 2016 at 7:56:17 PM EDT
To: rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov
Cc: amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Berryessa tweet

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 9:23 PM
To: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

Yep trying to upload now

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 9:32 PM
To: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>

To view photos click on link below

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/usinterior/0HVdkX>

On Mar 19, 2016, at 5:57 PM, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Sat, Mar 19, 2016 at 9:47 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
Date: March 19, 2016 at 6:32:28 PM PDT
To: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Berryessa tweet

[Quoted text hidden]

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain, CA, Waco Mammoth, TX, Basin and Range, NV as national monuments,

1 message

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 13, 2015 at 8:22 AM

To: Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

photos from reception are on DOI flickr



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication

8 messages

Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 9:08 PM
To: emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov, kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov, paul_ross@ios.doi.gov, frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov

Take a peek and let them know what we think.

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Storms, Samantha" <sstorms@blm.gov>
Date: March 22, 2016 at 6:08:51 PM EDT
To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Beverly Winston <bwinston@blm.gov>, Kristen Lenhardt <klenhard@blm.gov>, Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>
Cc: Martha Maciel <mmaciel@blm.gov>
Subject: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication

Hi there,

Attached you will see the post-celebration video put together by Eric Coulter from our Redding Field Office. Please take a look and let me know when we have approval for posting.

Thank you in advance,



Samantha Storms

Public Affairs Specialist, New Media Lead
Bureau of Land Management California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886
Office: (916) 978-4615
Cell: (916) 205-9166
Email: sstorms@blm.gov



Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 2:53 PM

To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Larry Gillick <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

Beautiful video and sound bytes! Interesting music choice...but I won't let perfect be the enemy of good. :)

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Jessica Kershaw
Senior Adviser & Press Secretary
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

Thompson, Kevin <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 2:59 PM

To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Larry Gillick <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

Music is a little odd but I love the imagery. Musically, it would be nice to have something a little more modern and appealing to a broader audience. But fine enough to run with. Kevin

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Kevin F. Thompson
Deputy Director of Communications
Office of the Secretary/U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1381 - Office
202-695-0707 -Cell
kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov
www.doi.gov

Gillick, Larry <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 3:03 PM

To: "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

OK, I'll be the person who objects to the Christmas carol.

Larry

—
Larry Gillick
Deputy Director of Digital Strategy
Drupal PaaS Evangelist
U.S. Department of the Interior

202-208-5141 (o) / 202-573-0306 (c)

Drupal Questions?

<https://sites.google.com/a/ios.doi.gov/doi-gov-cms/>

[Quoted text hidden]

Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 3:26 PM

To: "Gillick, Larry" <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

Yes, please do. Switching out the music is an easy ask and it's... bizarre.

Blake Androff

Director of Communications

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

[Quoted text hidden]

Bergling, Timothy <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 3:31 PM

To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Gillick, Larry" <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>, "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

For what's worth...that is not necessarily a Christmas carol..it could also be "Greensleeves," which was apocryphally written by King Henry VIII, a traditional English folk song

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensleeves>

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 5:51 PM

To: "Bergling, Timothy" <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>

Your funny - in a good way

[Quoted text hidden]

Bergling, Timothy <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 9:52 AM

To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

I do try..but it's mostly lost on this audience

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication

8 messages

Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 9:08 PM
To: emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov
Cc: interior_press@ios.doi.gov, kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov, paul_ross@ios.doi.gov, frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov

Take a peek and let them know what we think.

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Storms, Samantha" <sstorms@blm.gov>
Date: March 22, 2016 at 6:08:51 PM EDT
To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Beverly Winston <bwinston@blm.gov>, Kristen Lenhardt <klenhard@blm.gov>, Amy Krause <alkrause@blm.gov>
Cc: Martha Maciel <mmaciel@blm.gov>
Subject: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication

Hi there,

Attached you will see the post-celebration video put together by Eric Coulter from our Redding Field Office. Please take a look and let me know when we have approval for posting.

Thank you in advance,



Samantha Storms

Public Affairs Specialist, New Media Lead
Bureau of Land Management California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886
Office: (916) 978-4615
Cell: (916) 205-9166
Email: sstorms@blm.gov



Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 2:53 PM

To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Larry Gillick <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

Beautiful video and sound bytes! Interesting music choice...but I won't let perfect be the enemy of good. :)

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Jessica Kershaw
Senior Adviser & Press Secretary
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

Thompson, Kevin <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 2:59 PM

To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Larry Gillick <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

Music is a little odd but I love the imagery. Musically, it would be nice to have something a little more modern and appealing to a broader audience. But fine enough to run with. Kevin

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Kevin F. Thompson
Deputy Director of Communications
Office of the Secretary/U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1381 - Office
202-695-0707 -Cell
kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov
www.doi.gov

Gillick, Larry <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 3:03 PM

To: "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

OK, I'll be the person who objects to the Christmas carol.

Larry
—
Larry Gillick
Deputy Director of Digital Strategy
Drupal PaaS Evangelist
U.S. Department of the Interior

202-208-5141 (o) / 202-573-0306 (c)

Drupal Questions?

<https://sites.google.com/a/ios.doi.gov/doi-gov-cms/>

[Quoted text hidden]

Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 3:26 PM

To: "Gillick, Larry" <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, Timothy Bergling <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

Yes, please do. Switching out the music is an easy ask and it's... bizarre.

Blake Androff

Director of Communications

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

[Quoted text hidden]

Bergling, Timothy <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 3:31 PM

To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Gillick, Larry" <larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov>, "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rebecca Matulka <rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov>, Tami Heilemann <Tami_Heilemann@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>

For what's worth...that is not necessarily a Christmas carol..it could also be "Greensleeves," which was apocryphally written by King Henry VIII, a traditional English folk song

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensleeves>

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 23, 2016 at 5:51 PM

To: "Bergling, Timothy" <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>

Your funny - in a good way

[Quoted text hidden]

Bergling, Timothy <timothy_bergling@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 9:52 AM

To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

I do try..but it's mostly lost on this audience

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Berryessa Snow Dedication Photos

4 messages

Martin Scheel <mscheel@cityoflakeport.com>

Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 6:46 PM

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

Ms. Heidemann,

I am requesting the link (per your card) to photos you were shooting on Saturday March 19th at the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication.

My two year old son Mitchell was in the photos with Secretary Jewell and the antelope. I spoke with the Secretary shortly after. I had a red "City of Lakeport" shirt on.

Thank you.

Council Member Martin Scheel
City of Lakeport
225 Park Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5615 x12 OFC
707-349-1979 Mobile
www.cityoflakeport.com

This email checked with McAfee SaaS.

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 12:07 AM

To: Martin Scheel <mscheel@cityoflakeport.com>

Hello

Thank you for the email, I should have a link available within the next two days.

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 29, 2016 at 8:02 AM

To: Martin Scheel <mscheel@cityoflakeport.com>

Pictures from the event are now available!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

Martin Scheel <mscheel@cityoflakeport.com>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 31, 2016 at 11:01 AM

Thank you!

Council Member Martin Scheel
City of Lakeport
225 Park Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5615 x12 OFC
707-349-1979 Mobile
www.cityoflakeport.com<<http://www.cityoflakeport.com>>

On Mar 29, 2016, at 5:02 AM, Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov<mailto:tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>> wrote:

Pictures from the event are now available!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S><http://cp.mcafee.com/d/5fHCN0g6zqb3VEVjvjd7bxEVdTdETjupjud7bwUSztdVBcQsThhdETjupjud7bzNJ6WrPXUVdZ4SHiNf_f11FjbltQHWRoPVsTqkORnjZa-Jmc-ndCzD_sRRN_HYyeKy-qenQ-LsKDtZXcmkQhPzPDkhjmKCHtN_BgY-F6IK1FJ4SCrLOB2rPUV5xcQsCXCM0I5mOaHp7BY8WuvYiSgbCgY5yjUMrDGIxkDYz_IS40IaJegHbydj9IQsFFICMnWhEw6vz4JZaaq81y5j1Ew3LgBrpOH0Qg1oDmtq6Sn3u0MqZBmchjq>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov<mailto:tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> or 202-208-1793<tel:202-208-1793>.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

On Mar 21, 2016, at 6:46 PM, Martin Scheel <mscheel@cityoflakeport.com<mailto:mscheel@cityoflakeport.com>> wrote:

Ms. Heidemann,

I am requesting the link (per your card) to photos you were shooting on Saturday March 19th at the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Dedication.

My two year old son Mitchell was in the photos with Secretary Jewell and the antelope. I spoke with the Secretary shortly after. I had a red "City of Lakeport" shirt on.

Thank you.

Council Member Martin Scheel
City of Lakeport
225 Park Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
707-263-5615 x12 OFC
707-349-1979 Mobile
http://cp.mcafee.com/d/avndzqG96Qm7PhOC-Cqen3hOrKrhKCYOCYqen1NJ6WrPapE VKyyrhKCYOCYqen7zqdQTDNOrW9JmByv-u2HiCmGWvFnRGNDQVKBGKDWIZqIpYKrd7f-VHHz_nV4tt5YQsLFZuVteXXTclFEzD7DeEyCJtdmXz_axVZicHs3jqpJcTvAm4TDNOB2pEvdTdw0HiCmGWvFnRGNDQVKuGO5ivOfZnog1kGQV2IK8RcCPhOCCOr1vF6y0p-ciTQFFEw68lc6y0eZ2JJDal3h05ytpRErpsdXtEI>
[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Photos

5 messages

nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com>
To: tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Mar 24, 2016 at 6:39 PM

Hi,

I would love to receive the link to view the photos from the Berryessa Snow Mountain Event! Thank you!

—
Nicole Heitkam
530-521-3737
CeciliaforAssembly.com

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: "nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com" <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com>

Tue, Mar 29, 2016 at 7:58 AM

Pictures from the event are now available!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 2:39 PM

Hi Tami,

We really need high resolution photos for any picture with Cecilia in it. Would that be possible? Thanks so much!

Quoting Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>:

Pictures from the event are now available!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

On Mar 24, 2016, at 6:39 PM, "nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com" <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com> wrote:

Hi,

I would love to receive the link to view the photos from the Berryessa Snow Mountain Event! Thank you!

--
Nicole Heitkam
530-521-3737
CeciliaforAssembly.com <<http://ceciliaforassembly.com>>

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: "nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com" <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com>

Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 10:47 PM

Hi
I can accommodate your request, But I am on travel this week. Will next week work?

> On Mar 30, 2016, at 2:40 PM, "nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com" <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com> wrote:

>
> Hi Tami,
>
> We really need high resolution photos for any picture with Cecilia in it. Would that be possible? Thanks so much!

>
> Quoting Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>:

>
>> Pictures from the event are now available!
>>
>> To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)
>>
>> Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>
>>
>> Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

>>
>> Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

>>
>> On Mar 24, 2016, at 6:39 PM, "nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com" <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com> wrote:

>>
>>
>> Hi,
>>
>> I would love to receive the link to view the photos from the Berryessa Snow Mountain Event! Thank you!

>>
>> --

>> Nicole Heitkam
>> 530-521-3737
>> CeciliaforAssembly.com <<http://ceciliaforassembly.com>>

[Quoted text hidden]

nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com <nicole@ceciliaforassembly.com>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 31, 2016 at 2:37 PM

As soon as you can would be great! Thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Photo from the Monument dedication

4 messages

Coulter, Eric <ecoulter@blm.gov>

Mon, Mar 21, 2016 at 5:30 PM

To: tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov

Hey Tami,

I was the BLM video shooter at the dedication on Saturday. I know you are probably super busy, but if you ever get a chance could you send me the group photo with the Secretary I was in. It was a fun day and the weather was perfect. Hopefully we will shoot another event together in the future.

--

Thank you,

Eric Coulter

Public Contact Representative

Bureau of Land Management

Redding Field Office

355 Hemsted Drive

Redding, California 96002

(530) 224-2104

(530) 224-2172 FAX

ecoulter@blm.gov

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

— Aldo Leopold

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 12:08 AM

To: "Coulter, Eric" <ecoulter@blm.gov>

Hi Eric

I will send you the group and a link in the next day or so.

On Mar 21, 2016, at 2:30 PM, Coulter, Eric <ecoulter@blm.gov> wrote:

Hey Tami,

I was the BLM video shooter at the dedication on Saturday. I know you are probably super busy, but if you ever get a chance could you send me the group photo with the Secretary I was in. It was a fun day and the weather was perfect. Hopefully we will shoot another event together in the future.

--

Thank you,

Eric Coulter

Public Contact Representative

Bureau of Land Management
 Redding Field Office
 355 Hemsted Drive
 Redding, California 96002
 (530) 224-2104
 (530) 224-2172 FAX
ecoulter@blm.gov

<image001.png>

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

– Aldo Leopold

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
 To: "Coulter, Eric" <ecoulter@blm.gov>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 11:15 AM

Pictures from the event are now available!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is:

(b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

Coulter, Eric <ecoulter@blm.gov>
 To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 12:23 PM

You are so great, thanks Tami! Here's the link to my video I put together of the event if you want to check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7PMCr9IYxQ>

I would love a signed print if possible.

Photo: DOI_3493

Eric Coulter, BLM
 355 Hemsted Drive
 Redding, CA 96002

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

– Aldo Leopold



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: address to send photos

5 messages

Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 2:06 PM

Hi Tami,

Please see request below for a signed photo from the Secretary - would you be able to point them in the right direction?

Thanks,
~Leah

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

From: **Levitsky, Susanne@CCC** <Susanne.Levitsky@ccc.ca.gov>
Date: Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 1:47 PM
Subject: address to send photos
To: "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>

More than 10 days ago I sent a email request through the DOI website, but have heard nothing back. We had members of the California Conservation Corps pose with Secy. Jewell at the dedication of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. We have made two prints of the photo to see if Secy. Jewell might sign them, but wanted to know where might be the best place/address to send them to.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Susanne Levitsky
Public Information Officer
California Conservation Corps
(916) 341-3145

Official motto: "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions ... and more!"

Leah Duran

Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-3311
Cell: (202) 713-8638



berryessaMARCH192016 928.jpg
1684K

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: Susanne.Levitsky@ccc.ca.gov
Bcc: leah_duran@ios.doi.gov

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 2:17 PM

Good afternoon,
Thank you for the email. My apologies in the delay, I just received the request.
I have included a link to the photos from the event. If the same photo is in the collection, I can have the photo printed and signed by the Secretary.
If you would like to mail your photos for signature, it is suggested that UPS or FedX. As USMail will go thru a screening process and the pictures may be damaged. Mailing address
1849 C St NW MS 1642 Washington, DC 20240 Attn. Tami Heilemann

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

<berryessaMARCH192016 928.jpg>

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 2:17 PM

Yep just copied you on the response. Thanks

On Apr 18, 2016, at 2:06 PM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

<berryessaMARCH192016 928.jpg>

Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 2:17 PM

Thanks so much!
[Quoted text hidden]

Levitsky, Susanne@CCC <Susanne.Levitsky@ccc.ca.gov>
To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 2:27 PM

Thank you so much for the quick response. Will take a look at what you have.

Susanne Levitsky
Public Information Officer
California Conservation Corps
(916) 341-3145

Official motto: "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions ... and more!"

From: Tami Heilemann [mailto:tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2016 11:17 AM
To: Levitsky, Susanne@CCC <Susanne.Levitsky@CCC.CA.GOV>
Subject: Re: address to send photos

[Quoted text hidden]



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Berryessa Snow Mtn. photos

1 message

Levitsky, Susanne@CCC <Susanne.Levitsky@ccc.ca.gov>

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 12:12 PM

To: Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you again for responding. There is a photo similar to the one we have --

DOI_3422. If it is possible to request two signed copies -- that way we can share with both Red Bluff and Sacramento staff. They can be sent to me, below:

Thank you very much in advance.

Susanne Levitsky

Public Information Officer

California Conservation Corps

1710 24th Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

Official motto: "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions ... and more!"

From: Tami Heilemann [mailto:tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov]**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2016 11:17 AM**To:** Levitsky, Susanne@CCC <Susanne.Levitsky@CCC.CA.GOV>**Subject:** Re: address to send photos

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the email. My apologies in the delay, I just received the request.

I have included a link to the photos from the event. If the same photo is in the collection, I can have the photo printed and signed by the Secretary.

If you would like to mail your photos for signature, it is suggested that UPS or FedX. As USMail will go thru a screening process and the pictures may be damaged. Mailing address

1849 C St NW MS 1642 Washington, DC 20240 Attn. Tami Heilemann

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

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Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

On Apr 18, 2016, at 2:06 PM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Tami,

Please see request below for a signed photo from the Secretary - would you be able to point them in the right direction?

Thanks,

~Leah

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

From: **Levitsky, Susanne@CCC** <Susanne.Levitsky@ccc.ca.gov>
Date: Mon, Apr 18, 2016 at 1:47 PM
Subject: address to send photos
To: "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>

More than 10 days ago I sent a email request through the DOI website, but have heard nothing back. We had members of the California Conservation Corps pose with Secy. Jewell at the dedication of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. We have made two prints of the photo to see if Secy. Jewell might sign them, but wanted to know where might be the best place/address to send them to.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Susanne Levitsky
Public Information Officer
California Conservation Corps
(916) 341-3145

5/2/2016

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Berryessa Snow Mtn. photos

Official motto: "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions ... and more!"

--

Leah Duran
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-3311

Cell: (202) 713-8638

<berryessaMARCH192016 928.jpg>



Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

03-19-16 SOI J BLM Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

5 messages

Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 11:00 AM

To: Megan Nagel <megan_nagel@fws.gov>, Tara Thissell <tthissell@blm.gov>

Hello,

I wanted to follow up if you all wanted any photos from the event and signed by the Secretary? Thanks

Pictures from the event are now available!

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-vxRC5S>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

Thissell, Tara <tthissell@blm.gov>

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 11:13 AM

To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Tami,

Do you have an album of the Secretary's visit to Harney County? It looks like all the photos in the album you sent are from the Berryessa visit.

Thanks!

TARA THISSELL

Public Affairs Specialist

28910 Hwy 20 W
Hines, Oregon 97738
541/573/4519
tthissell@blm.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Nagel, Megan <megan_nagel@fws.gov>

Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 8:54 PM

To: "Heilemann, Tami" <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Tami,

Thank you so very much for the email! These are beautiful photos! Unfortunately, our staff were only at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge/Harney County portion of that trip.

If there are any of those photos we could potentially use, it would be very much appreciated, but understand if that is not possible.

Thank you again for your consideration and time! I enjoyed meeting you (again!) and our conversations during the visit.

Best,

Megan

On Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 8:00 AM, Heilemann, Tami <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

—
Megan Nagel

Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Pacific Region

Mobile: (503) 705-6877
Office: (503) 231-6123

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 10:17 PM
To: "Nagel, Megan" <megan_nagel@fws.gov>

Below are two additional links

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-gdvQ3V>

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-4SmX76>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]

Tami Heilemann <tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Apr 19, 2016 at 10:18 PM
To: "Thissell, Tara" <tthissell@blm.gov>

Here you go

To view the photos, please click on the link below. The password required to access them is: (b) (5)

Photos: <http://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-4SmX76>

Image quality is reduced resolution for viewing & web use – if you would like prints, please contact Tami Heilemann at tami_heilemann@ios.doi.gov or 202-208-1793.

Additionally, if you would like a signed photo from the Secretary, please provide the image number located on the lower left of the photo, first and last name, and a mailing address.

[Quoted text hidden]



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, February 19, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [President Obama To Declare New National Monuments Thursday In Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois.](#)
- + [Sen. Murkowski Criticizes Recent Federal Decisions In Speech.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Breaks Visitation Record.](#)
- + [Museum At Ford's Theatre Closed Due To Leak.](#)
- + [Catoclin Mountain Park Visitor Center Damaged By Burst Pipe.](#)
- + [Florida Power & Light Clashes With Biscayne National Park Over Water Needs For Nuclear Plant.](#)
- + [More Than 500 Bison Removed From Yellowstone So Far This Winter.](#)
- + [Krog Waiting For NPS Approval On Redevelopment Plan.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Maps Noise Levels Throughout US.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Senator's Descendants Defend Name Of Chevy Chase Fountain.](#)
- + [During Federal Shutdown 19 Years Ago, NPS Broke Rules To Fulfill Sick Teen's Last Wish.](#)

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Utah Considers Massive Land Trade For Training Range.](#)
- + [Canyons Of The Ancients National Monument Neighbors Seek Change In Policy.](#)
- + [BLM To Hold Adoption Event For Wild Horses Rounded Up Last Year.](#)
- + [BLM Holds Open House On Proposed La Posa Travel Management Plan.](#)
- + [BLM Begins Process To Dispose Of Slivers Of Public Lands In Colorado.](#)
- + [Idaho Man Ordered To Pay \\$8,100 After Starting Colorado Gulch Wildfire.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [FWS Raises Concerns Over Sand Hills Route.](#)
- + [Young Salmon Prepared For Release Into San Joaquin River.](#)
- + [Florida Panther Found Dead In Big Cypress National Preserve.](#)
- + [PETA Demands Federal Investigation Of Deaths At Charlestown Animal Refuge.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Oregon Chub Taken Off Endangered List.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Group Urges Interior To Safeguard Birds From Wind Farm Blades.](#)
- + [Birds Killed During Test Of Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project.](#)
- + [Brunswick County Commissioners Oppose Offshore Wind-energy Proposal.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Exxon Subsidiary Fined For \\$1.3 Million Delaying Audit.](#)

- + [BLM Seeks Comments On Pinedale Anticline Gas Field Noise Report.](#)
- + [BLM-Utah Releases Quarterly Oil, Gas Lease Sale Results.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [Offshore Drilling In The Atlantic Debated.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Colorado Mountain Snow Is Bright Spot During Drought In West.](#)
- + [Groups Push Back Against Proposal To Increase Water Pumped From Delta.](#)
- + [Government Whistleblowers Claim Klamath Irrigators Misusing Federal Funds.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Gov. Walker Stands Firm On Casino Decision.](#)
- + [New Mexico Tribe Urges Lawmakers To Approve Gambling Compact.](#)
- + [Myton, Ute Tribe Clash Over New Community Center.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama: Linking Terrorists To Religion Lends Them Legitimacy.](#)
- + [Obama Lawyers "Struggling" For Response To Judge's Ruling On Immigration.](#)
- + [Inflation Gauge Down, But Housing Starts And Industrial Production Below Expectations.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

PRESIDENT OBAMA TO DECLARE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS THURSDAY IN COLORADO, HAWAII, ILLINOIS. The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that "President Obama will designate both Colorado's Browns Canyon and the Honouliuli Internment Camp as protected areas under the Antiquities Act Thursday, according to White House officials, in addition to Chicago's Pullman Park District." According to the article, "a White House official, who asked for anonymity because the president had not yet made the designations, wrote in an e-mail that take together, the three 'monuments help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans.'"

The [AP](#) (2/19, Daly) reports that "the three sites will bring to 16 the number of national monuments Obama has created under the 1906 Antiquities Act, which grants presidents broad authority to protect historic or ecologically significant sites without congressional approval." The article notes that "some Republicans have complained that Obama has abused his authority, and they renewed their complaints over the new designations, especially the Colorado site, the largest in size by far among the three new monuments."

The [AP](#) (2/19, Daly) reports that "outdoors and wildlife groups hailed the Browns Canyon designation, which they said would allow future generations to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing."

Scott Pelley reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/18, story 12, 2:40, Pelley, 5.08M) that the President will visit Chicago on Thursday "to designate a new national monument, the Pullman Historic District." Dean Reynolds noted that the Pullman neighborhood, built by railroad titan George Pullman, "whose sleeper cars once set the standard for rail travel and whose workers were among the first Americans to enter the middle class," was "a company town with homes built for workers, but Pullman didn't stop there. He built a hospital, a trade school,

and he built this 65-room hotel named for his daughter, Florence.” While Pullman “despised unions and endured bitter strikes,” the “diverse workforce he employed fostered an environment that ushered in fair labor conditions and civil rights.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (2/18), [CNN](#) (2/18, 14.35M), [The Hill](#) (2/19, Barron-Lopez, 224K), [Roll Call](#) (2/19, 102K), the [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Richardson, 644K), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, 3.49M), the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/19, 1.11M), the [Gant \(PA\) Daily](#) (2/18, 3K), the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/19, 79K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/19, 9K), the [Mountain Mail](#) (2/19, 17K), [WDIV-TV](#) Detroit (2/19, 219K), and [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (2/18, 73K).

President Obama To Announce Every Kid In A Park Initiative. [USA Today](#) (2/19, Korte, 10.32M) reports that “President Obama will announce Thursday that the National Park Service will give all fourth graders and their families free admission to national parks and other federal lands for a full year.”

The Every Kid in a Park initiative is “part of an effort to get schoolchildren outdoors and more active.” According to the article, “it will start in the school year that begins next fall, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service in 2016.”

Also providing coverage is [WTLV-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (2/19, 53K).

Connection Between Pullman And Indiana Dunes Urged. In an editorial, the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/19, 283K) welcomes “the designation of the Pullman neighborhood as a national park.” It suggests that the next step should be a “link between the Pullman district and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.” It concludes that “with Pullman now getting National Park Service muscle, link that site with Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to help tell the story of the history of the entire region, with man-made and natural landmarks between the two parks laid out in a history trail for visitors.”

SEN. MURKOWSKI CRITICIZES RECENT FEDERAL DECISIONS IN SPEECH. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski “used her speech before state lawmakers Wednesday to push back against a federal government that she says seems to want to starve the trans-Alaska pipeline system of new oil.” Murkowski “cited as examples President Barack Obama’s recommendation to make oil and gas development off limits in the potentially oil-rich coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by seeking a wilderness designation, even though that plan would need congressional approval.” She also “cited the Obama administration’s proposal to bar drilling in millions of acres of Alaska’s Arctic waters.” Also, “she said the viability of a ConocoPhillips project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska was put into question by ‘hugely expensive’ mitigation measures that Obama’s administration was trying to impose on the company.”

Sen. Murkowski: Obama Planning To Visit Alaska In August. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (2/19, 39K) reports that “President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry will visit Alaska this summer, US Sen. Lisa Murkowski told the Legislature during her annual address Wednesday.” Although “a spokeswoman for the State Department did not confirm the trip, and a White House official said there was no trip currently planned,” Murkowski said that the announcement “could be a little premature” and said “the secretary of state told her about the anticipated August visit in a recent meeting.” The article notes that “in the wake of the recent visit from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, which focused on the effects of climate change on the coastal community of Kivalina, Murkowski said she hoped Obama wouldn’t use the visit to grandstand on climate change.” Jewell is quoted saying, “A number of people asked me that. I certainly will put it on their radar, at the White House, to see if that’s a possibility. As we take over the chairmanship of the Arctic Council, there will be a lot more focus on Alaska and a recognition that we are an arctic nation because of the state of Alaska. The president’s schedule is in demand worldwide, but I will convey the request to the White House and see where it goes.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/18, 146K), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/18, 2K), and [KTVA-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (2/19, 1K).

Paper Suggests Cooperation To Improve State-federal Relations. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (2/19, 39K) editorializes that “if Secretary Jewell and President Obama’s administration are looking for the reset button and wondering how things got so acrimonious lately, they need only look in the mirror to find the culprits.” According to the paper, “the topic wouldn’t resonate so strongly with Alaska politicians and Alaskans in general if — especially in recent years — there hadn’t been a persistent move by federal agencies to tie up land, make rules for federal property more restrictive and refuse to negotiate on land swaps and other issues of great local concern.” It notes that “Secretary Jewell, at a press conference in Kotzebue, floated the idea of a task force or committee to build bridges between state and federal officials.” However, the paper suggests that “what might

be more helpful would be fewer task forces and committees and more earnest conversations between our governments rather than blindsiding one another with plans.”

Hunter Supports Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Designation. In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/18, 146K), Robert Thompson, an Inupiaq hunter who runs trips in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, supports the designation of wildemess for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He sees “the wildemess designation as the best way to support the Inupiat value – respect for the land.” Thompson writes that he is “in favor of wildemess for the Refuge because I don’t want to live in an oil field.”

Recent Arctic Decisions Criticized. In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 102K), David Hunt, a retired U.S. Army colonel and a former security adviser to the FBI, writes that the Obama Administration’s recent Arctic decisions are “a step in the wrong direction for the nation’s goals for self-sufficiency, economic growth and national security.” He writes that “rather than solidify our national security by expanding our country’s diverse energy portfolio and opening up several areas of the energy-rich Arctic region to exploration and production, the administration, with leadership of the Arctic Council just a few months away, chose to set a bad example by closing off much of this territory via a recent series of puzzling announcements that will be at the center of debate at next month’s Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, according to Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska.” He urges the federal government to “jettison overly prescriptive regulations that stifle innovation and are counter to our geopolitical interest in regions such as the Arctic.”

Additional Coverage Of Secretary Jewell’s Trip To Alaska. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s trip to Alaska was provided by [Bloomberg](#) (2/19, 3.24M), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (2/19, 39K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/18, 146K), the [Oklahoman](#) (2/19, 452K), [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (2/19, 56K), and [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (2/18).

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS BREAKS VISITATION RECORD. [The Hill](#) (2/19, Cama, 224K) reports that the NPS “set a new record for visitation to its facilities last year, breaking the previous 27-year-old record.” According to the agency, “parks saw 292.8 million recreational visits in 2014, a 7 percent increase over 2013 and 5.6 million more than the old record set in 1987.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis said, “With this record visitation we should see something on the order of \$15 billion in visitor spending, 250,000 or more jobs and a \$28 billion effect on the US economy when our annual economics of national parks report comes out in April.”

Also reporting on the story are the [AP](#) (2/18) and [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (2/19, 1.07M).

MUSEUM AT FORD’S THEATRE CLOSED DUE TO LEAK. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that “the museum at the Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site in Washington is closed after a water leak flooded the museum floor.” NPS spokesman Mike Litterst says “about an inch of water was discovered in the museum Wednesday morning.” According to Litterst, “maintenance crews have stopped the leak but have not determined the cause.” Litterst says “no museum artifacts have been affected or threatened by the water.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, 5.17M).

Also reporting on the story are the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Zauzmer, 5.17M) and [WRC-TV](#) Washington (2/19, 613K).

CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK VISITOR CENTER DAMAGED BY BURST PIPE. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that the NPS says “the visitor center at Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont will likely be closed for the rest of this month due to water damage from a pipe that burst in cold weather.” Park spokeswoman Debra Mills said Wednesday that “ceiling tile and carpet must be replaced.”

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT CLASHES WITH BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK OVER WATER NEEDS FOR NUCLEAR PLANT. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/19, 694K) reports that “to keep its nuclear power plant at Turkey Point cool, Florida Power & Light wants to make a temporary fix orchestrated over the hot summer into a more permanent solution.” However, “the request — to pump up to 100 million gallons of freshwater daily into plant cooling canals from a nearby drainage canal over the next 20 years — would rob Biscayne Bay of freshwater

needed to revive ailing coral reefs and seagrass meadows and undo millions of dollars spent in Everglades restoration, federal officials said at a South Florida Water Management District meeting Wednesday." Biscayne National Park Superintendent Brian Carlstrom said, "This is a stopgap measure to try to supplement a problem that is much bigger."

MORE THAN 500 BISON REMOVED FROM YELLOWSTONE SO FAR THIS WINTER. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that "more than 500 wild bison from Yellowstone National Park have been sent to slaughter, killed by hunters or removed for experimental research this winter." The article notes that "state and federal officials want to reduce the park's bison population by up to 900 animals this winter as part of a long-term effort to curb their winter migration into Montana."

KROG WAITING FOR NPS APPROVAL ON REDEVELOPMENT PLAN. The [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (2/19, 495K) reports that "Orchard Park industrial developer Krog Corp.'s adaptive reuse plans to redevelop the hulking Trico Products Corp. Building in downtown Buffalo are still on hold, as the firm waits for the go-ahead from the National Park Service, a city official said this week." Krog is "seeking to acquire the enormous structure at 791 Washington St. from the city's Buffalo Brownfield Restoration Corp., with a goal of converting the 600,000-square-foot manufacturing plant and warehouse into a mixture of two hotels, apartments, commercial and retail space, and a parking ramp." The article notes that "because of the building's historic status, the project will rely in part on historic tax credits, so the renovation plans must first be approved by both the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office, part of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MAPS NOISE LEVELS THROUGHOUT US. Additional coverage of the NPS' work to map noise levels throughout the US was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Swanson, 5.17M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/18, 380K), the [New York Daily News](#) (2/19, 3.79M), the [Dallas Morning News](#) (2/18, 1.13M), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/18, 146K), and [WRC-TV](#) Washington (2/19, 613K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SENATOR'S DESCENDANTS DEFEND NAME OF CHEVY CHASE FOUNTAIN. Additional coverage that "seven descendants of Francis Griffith Newlands are urging the D.C. Advisory Neighborhood Commission to reject a resolution calling for the removal of their ancestor's name from the fountain" was provided by the [AP](#) (2/18).

DURING FEDERAL SHUTDOWN 19 YEARS AGO, NPS BROKE RULES TO FULFILL SICK TEEN'S LAST WISH. In his column for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (2/19, 1K), Todd Wilkinson writes about Randy Caulder, who was dying of cancer, and whose "last wish" was to travel "Yellowstone National Park to see Old Faithful erupt just once." But 19 years ago, the federal government was in the midst of a shutdown and the Interior Department had blocked visitors from entering parks. However, "when word reached Yellowstone that he didn't have a lot of time, Park Superintendent Mike Finley, his staff and concession employees agreed unanimously that they would break the law and discreetly commit an act of civil disobedience." Wilkinson writes that "both Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and President Bill Clinton reportedly were pleased at what Finley and colleagues had done," and "not long after his visit, Randy Neil Caulder died at around 5 in the morning on Jan. 11, 1996."

Bureau of Land Management:

UTAH CONSIDERS MASSIVE LAND TRADE FOR TRAINING RANGE. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/19, 538K) reports that "Utah lawmakers are being asked to throw their support behind a massive land exchange that would allow the military's Utah Test and Training Range to significantly expand its geographic footprint in the West Desert." According to the article, "a joint resolution introduced Tuesday in the Utah House was reviewed Wednesday afternoon in an emergency board of trustees' meeting of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, which is poised to swap land with the Bureau of Land Management." At the meeting, "members unanimously approved a motion supporting the exchange proposal detailed in the pending resolution before lawmakers."

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT NEIGHBORS SEEK CHANGE IN POLICY. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/18, 28K) reports that "some neighbors of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in McElmo Canyon" have found that they are not allowed to hike from their property onto the monument. They are seeking a change in policy in the monument's Resource Management Plan passed in 2010.

BLM TO HOLD ADOPTION EVENT FOR WILD HORSES ROUNDED UP LAST YEAR. The [AP](#) (2/19)

reports that the BLM is "preparing to adopt out around 50 of the approximately 1,250 wild horses it rounded up from western Wyoming rangelands last year, in the first such adoption event held in the state since September." The bureau "plans to reopen the corral facility to the public Monday." BLM wild horse and burro specialist Jay D'Ewart said Wednesday, "Most of the time, we can work people in if they're serious about adopting."

BLM HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON PROPOSED LA POSA TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Palo Verde Valley \(CA\) Times](#) (2/19, 11K) reports that "proposed plans for off-road vehicle trails and other uses for public lands around Quartzite were the subject of an open house held last week by the Bureau of Land Management." BLM staff were "available to answer questions and take comments from the public on the proposed La Posa Travel Management Plan."

BLM BEGINS PROCESS TO DISPOSE OF SLIVERS OF PUBLIC LANDS IN COLORADO. The [Leadville \(CO\) Herald Democrat](#) (2/19) reports that the BLM Royal Gorge Field Office is "taking the first step in a series of actions needed to dispose of slivers of public lands in Leadville." The article notes that "these slivers altogether amount to 219 acres of land, but the BLM is most concerned with two of the parcels that are depicted in the accompanying map, are in the downtown residential area and are the primary focus of the action."

IDAHO MAN ORDERED TO PAY \$8,100 AFTER STARTING COLORADO GULCH WILDFIRE. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that "a central Idaho man who set off fireworks that sparked a 1-mile square fire and forced the evacuation of 20 homes has been ordered to pay \$8,100 in restitution." Mauricio Pedraza-Rodriguez "started last summer's Colorado Gulch fire on July 6." Officials say the BLM "spent about \$300,000 fighting the fire and the Wood River Fire and Rescue about \$40,000."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS RAISES CONCERNS OVER SAND HILLS ROUTE. The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (2/19, 566K) reports that "the final route of a proposed high-voltage power line should be moved out of the heart of the Sand Hills, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The FWS says "a new route would avoid harming habitat important to threatened and endangered species and migratory birds." However, "Nebraska Public Power District, the power line builder, says the route is final, and there will be no changes."

YOUNG SALMON PREPARED FOR RELEASE INTO SAN JOAQUIN RIVER. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/18, 323K) reports that "biologists on Wednesday placed 54,000 young salmon into the San Joaquin River near Friant Dam, acclimating the fish to the river in hopes of having them return to spawn in a few years." The article notes that "the effort is part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, a long-term project to reconnect the river with the ocean and re-establish salmon runs." The biologists involved in the project are from the FWS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

FLORIDA PANTHER FOUND DEAD IN BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (2/17, 193K) reports that "Florida lost a genetic legacy over the weekend after a 16-year-old female panther with mostly Texas genes was found dead in Big Cypress National Preserve." According to the article, "called Florida Panther 191 by biologists, she was part of a generation that took panthers from the brink of extinction to upwards of 180 big cats in the wild today."

PETA DEMANDS FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS AT CHARLESTOWN ANIMAL REFUGE. The [Jefferson \(IN\) News & Tribune](#) (2/19, 1K) reports that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals "sent a letter to the US Department of Agriculture on Wednesday, asking officials to determine whether the deaths of several bears, lemurs and spotted leopards violated the Animal Welfare Act." The group "cited the nine deaths that were listed in a November captive-bred wildlife permit application by Wildlife in Need owner Tim Stark." In requesting the permit from the FWS, "Stark wrote that he wanted the license to 'make acquisition of new species and specimens as simple and expedient as possible.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OREGON CHUB TAKEN OFF ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage of the removal of the Oregon chub from the federal list of endangered and threatened animals was provided by [The Hill](#) (2/18, Wheeler, 224K) and the [International Business Times \(UK\)](#) (2/19, 164K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GROUP URGES INTERIOR TO SAFEGUARD BIRDS FROM WIND FARM BLADES. The [Law 360](#) (2/19, 9K) reports that “a specialized conservation group is urging the US Department of the Interior to protect the nation’s migratory bird population from death by turbine by requiring wind energy projects to meet stricter permitting guidelines.” The American Bird Conservancy said “in its petition to DOI Secretary Sally Jewell on Feb. 12 that the US Fish and Wildlife Service wasn’t doing enough to prevent the hundreds of thousands of deaths that occur each year when migrating birds plow into wind turbines.”

Also reporting on the story is [Reuters](#) (2/19, Rascoe).

BIRDS KILLED DURING TEST OF CRESCENT DUNES SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (2/19, 15K) reports that “a test of a solar power tower project in Nevada resulted in injuries to over one hundred birds, the federal government is reporting, though the project’s owners say they’ve fixed the problem.” According to Rudy Evenson, Deputy Chief of Communications for Nevada Bureau of Land Management in Reno, “on January 14, during tests of the 110-megawatt Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project near Tonopah, Nevada, biologists observed 130 birds entering an area of concentrated solar energy and catching fire.” SolarReserve confirmed that “birds were injured at the plant in January, but says that the mitigation measures Evenson described have allowed subsequent testing of the plant with less risk to wildlife – which the company is touting as good news for management of power tower wildlife issues.”

BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE OFFSHORE WIND-ENERGY PROPOSAL. The [State Port Pilot \(NC\)](#) (2/19) reports that “concerns over how massive wind turbines in offshore waters could affect beach tourism has prompted the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to formally wade into the wind energy debate.” The board “voted unanimously Monday to send a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management opposing the lease of offshore areas and construction of wind turbines off the North Carolina coast ‘until we feel our concerns have been adequately addressed.’”

Onshore Energy Development:

EXXON SUBSIDIARY FINED FOR \$1.3 MILLION DELAYING AUDIT. The [AP](#) (2/19) reports that “a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corp. was hit with a \$1.3 million civil penalty on Wednesday for failing to provide timely information needed for an audit of its federal oil and gas leases in North Dakota.” The Interior Department’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue said “Texas-based XTO Energy, Inc. did not fully comply with the 2013 information request for a year.” According to Deputy Interior Secretary Paul Mussenden, “that substantially delayed the audit work, and diverted the agency’s resources to pursuing the information rather than examining it.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (2/19, 3K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/19, 165K) and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/19, Brown, 5.81M).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON PINEDALE ANTICLINE GAS FIELD NOISE REPORT. The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (2/19, 1K) reports that the BLM’s Pinedale Anticline Project Office (PAPO) is “seeking public comments on a 2014 acoustic noise report on sound levels at 19 Greater Sage Grouse leks—places where males gather to attract females during mating season—in western Wyoming’s Pinedale Anticline natural gas field.” According to the article, “the study’s objective was to monitor noise levels at 19 Greater Sage Grouse lakes in the Pinedale Anticline Project Area south of the city of Pinedale.”

BLM-UTAH RELEASES QUARTERLY OIL, GAS LEASE SALE RESULTS. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (2/18, 3K) reports that the BLM Utah “received bonus bids totaling \$342,277 for 17 parcels of land covering 12,834 acres, at the quarterly oil and gas lease sale held Tuesday at the BLM-Utah State Office in Salt Lake City.” The bureau “sold 17 of the 17 offered parcels.” The article notes that “in addition to the bonus bids, the sale grossed \$19,254 in rental fees and \$2,635 in administrative fees, for \$364,166 in total receipts from the lease sale.”

Coverage was also provided by [KCSG-TV](#) St. George, UT (2/19, 43).

Offshore Energy Development:

OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC DEBATED. The [New York Times](#) (2/18, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) in its "Room For Debate" section, invites four experts to share their opinion on the implications of drilling in the Atlantic, a substitute offered by President Obama in lieu of offshore exploration off the coast of Alaska.

Southern Environmental Law Center senior attorney Sierra Weaver writes to the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Weaver, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) to express her opposition to "risky offshore drilling" in the Mid- and South Atlantic, noting that residents of coastal areas in the region are famous for their love for "seafood, our stretches of white sand beaches, our close-knit coastal communities." Weaver writes, "The risk is far too great for the questionable benefits given how little oil is estimated to be off the Southeastern coast." She notes the new drilling could be linked to a push by Southern governors, who have ties with the oil and gas industry, and who "have been pushing for leasing off their states," but explains that such a move does not make economic sense as "A single spill would threaten the economic livelihood of thousands" and cause the loss of billions of dollars in revenue. "Washington must not prioritize outside oil and gas interests over the health, safety, and well-being of life along the Atlantic coasts and in our communities," she concludes.

Harvard University Law professor and executive director of the presidential commission responsible for identifying the root causes of the 2010 Gulf oil spill Richard Lazarus writes for the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Lazarus, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) that President Obama's assertion in April 2010 that "oil rigs today generally don't cause spills" backfired shortly after with the "catastrophic well blowout of the Louisiana coast – the nation's worst oil spill ever." Lazarus notes that the Administration may be trying to assuage tensions with Republicans by conceding Atlantic offshore drilling exploration in exchange for protection for the Arctic, but that taking such a high risk in the Atlantic is not necessary in light of plummeting oil prices thanks to a domestic production that is now "58 percent greater than in March 2010." He also notes that since the deepwater oil spill, "Congress has failed to enact a single statute increasing safety in response to the huge regulatory gaps revealed in 2010." Lazarus concludes that Atlantic drilling "undercuts the President's own otherwise commendable climate policies."

National Ocean Industries Association president Randall Luthi for his part writes to the [New York Times](#) (2/18, Luthi, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) in support of Atlantic offshore drilling, which he says can add \$23.5 billion to the US economy by 2035, "create 280,000 jobs, generate \$51 billion in state and federal revenue and produce an additional 1.3 million barrels of oil equivalent per day." He notes that offshore drilling "has garnered significant public and political support in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia." Luthi explains that offshore drilling takes about eight to ten year for production to begin, which would make the US competitive once again in the face of other countries that are exploring offshore drilling options, like Canada, Mexico, Norway, Brazil and even Ghana. "About 85 percent of our offshore areas, including the Atlantic, have been locked away and unexplored for decades," he writes. "The potential for increased economic and energy opportunities make all new US production potential worth considering."

Virginia Congressman Rob Wittman agrees that energy exploration off the Atlantic coast is necessary. He writes for the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Wittman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) noting that "Global energy demands are expected to rise in the future, making it all the more risky for the US to depend on the unstable Middle East for a significant portion of its energy supply." He explains that with delays in selling drilling leases, the US would still need a decade before actual oil production in the Atlantic. As a marine ecosystems expert, he explains that while he understands the importance of a healthy environment, he would not be supportive of drilling off the Virginia Coast if he had doubts about the safety of the practice. He further emphasizes the importance of "advanced safety measures" that need to be applied to any energy extraction efforts in the US. He further notes that low oil prices and renewable energy advances should not stop the US from harnessing more energy from fossil fuels.

In a piece for the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (2/19, 397K), Cory Lopez urges states to reject offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. He argues that "the devastating environmental and economic damage from a spill, either off the coast of Georgia or off other states further north, just isn't worth the risks." Moreover, he claims that "risky new offshore energy exploration just isn't necessary" because "oil prices have declined," and "US energy firms have been cutting back on production."

The [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 124K) calls for calm among those debating offshore drilling. It hopes that "if oil or gas are found off our coastline... North Carolina will be a national model for developing it safely." But it notes that "before that, we have a long hike ahead – starting with finding out what's out there."

Additional coverage of the offshore drilling proposal was provided by the [Greater Wilmington \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (2/18) and [WUNC-FM](#) Chapel Hill, NC (2/19, 15K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

COLORADO MOUNTAIN SNOW IS BRIGHT SPOT DURING DROUGHT IN WEST. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that "snowpack in the mountain valleys where the Colorado River originates was only a little below normal on Wednesday, marking one of the few bright spots in an increasingly grim drought gripping much of the West." But in "contrast, reporting stations in the Sierra Nevada range in drought-stricken California showed snowpack at 50 percent or less in early February, the most recent figures available." The article notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "called California 'ground zero for the drought.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/18, 2.42M), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/18, 685K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/19, 238K), and [WBT-AM](#) Charlotte, NC (2/19, 6K).

GROUPS PUSH BACK AGAINST PROPOSAL TO INCREASE WATER PUMPED FROM DELTA. The [Courthouse News](#) (2/18, 7K) reports that "conservation and sport-fishing groups filed protests Tuesday against the California State Water Resources Control Board, demanding it forgo a proposal to increase the amount of water pumped from the drought-stricken Delta." According to the article, "a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by the Department of Water Resources and The United States Bureau of Reclamation on Jan. 23 asks the state water board to modify water flow restrictions for 180 days due to California's historic drought." The environmental group Restore the Delta and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance "announced the protests Tuesday on the eve of the water board's public hearing, where it will discuss the TUCP that could increase the amount of water pumped out of the Delta for sale to users south."

GOVERNMENT WHISTLEBLOWERS CLAIM KLAMATH IRRIGATORS MISUSING FEDERAL FUNDS. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (2/19, 3K) reports that "two government biologists say millions of dollars in federal funds intended to secure water for fish in the Klamath Basin were instead used to directly compensate local farmers and ranchers." BOR "whistleblower Todd Pederson said he first became suspicious of a contract between the Bureau and irrigation interests about 1.5 years ago" when "he saw invoices from the Klamath Water and Power Agency, the group responsible for securing water supplies for Klamath Project irrigators." He said, "There were invoices for office space, for salaries, for KWAPA employees, for water pumping, for land idling. I'd like to see that those people responsible for this contract being in place for this long are held accountable."

Empowering Native American Communities:

GOV. WALKER STANDS FIRM ON CASINO DECISION. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that "the Menominee Nation's latest attempt at persuading Gov. Scott Walker to change his mind and approve the tribe's plans for a Kenosha casino fell flat Wednesday after a police officer refused to let the tribal chairman into the governor's Capitol office." The BIA has "given Walker until Thursday to finalize his decision, but the governor has shown no signs of budging."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Green Bay \(WI\) Press-Gazette](#) (2/18, 126K).

Also providing coverage are the [Wisconsin Radio Network](#) (2/19), [WTAQ-AM](#) Green Bay, WI (2/18, 5K), and [WITI-TV](#) Milwaukee (2/18, 158K).

NEW MEXICO TRIBE URGES LAWMAKERS TO APPROVE GAMBLING COMPACT. The [AP](#) (2/18) reports that "leaders with the Jicarilla Apache Nation are urging New Mexico lawmakers to approve a new gambling compact negotiated by tribes and Gov. Susana Martinez's office." The proposed compact, which "would have to be approved by the Legislature and then the US Interior Department," would "cover gambling operations by the Jicarilla Apache, the Mescalero Apache, the pueblos of Acoma and Jemez and the Navajo Nation."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Times](#) (2/18, 644K), [KOB-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/19, 46K), and [KRQE-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (2/18, 48K).

MYTON, UTE TRIBE CLASH OVER NEW COMMUNITY CENTER. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/19, 538K) reports that "members of the Ute Indian Tribe say they don't need municipal approval to build a new community center in Myton," but "city officials disagree... questioning whether the new center is actually being built on tribal trust land." Valentina Sireech, who "serves as president of the Ute tribal community group in Myton, has worked for more than three years to secure grant funding for the new center, which is under construction at 90 E. 100 South." The article notes that "Sireech's assertion appears to be backed up by a letter from the US Bureau of

Indian Affairs that shows the community center is being built on property held in trust for the Ute Tribe by the federal government.”

Top National News:

OBAMA: LINKING TERRORISTS TO RELIGION LENDS THEM LEGITIMACY. Media coverage of the President’s speech at a White House Summit on Countering Extremism – which included reports on two network newscasts last night – largely focused on the President’s defense of his refusal to characterize the terrorists as “Islamic.” [Bloomberg News](#) (2/19, Linskey, 2.94M) reports the President said “the US and its allies must strip away any legitimacy that Islamic State and al-Qaeda claim by portraying themselves as religious movements.” Said Obama, “They are not religious leaders. They’re terrorists. And we are not at war with Islam. We are at war with people who have perverted Islam.” The [Huffington Post](#) (2/19, Bendery, 11.54M) reports that Obama added, “They no more represent Islam than any madman who kills in the name of Christianity or Judaism or Buddhism or Hinduism.” Obama critics sought to ridicule the President’s explanations, casting them as a capitulation, and the coverage includes a fair amount of their scorn for the Administration’s rhetoric. Moreover, a number of commentators and analysts – as well as at least one Democratic lawmaker – questioned whether the summit itself serves any practical purpose in the fight against extremism.

Reporting on Obama’s speech, Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/18, story 6, 1:25, Holt, 7.86M) the President “appeared to choose his words very carefully,” and Chris Jansing added that he “mounted an extensive defense of his decision to avoid linking terrorism to the Muslim faith.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/18, story 6, 0:55, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley made no mention of the controversy surrounding the President’s choice of language, noting that he said that “Muslims have to take responsibility for repudiating terrorism” and that the summit “centers on how to counter ISIS and other groups that are enticing young people to murder.” Jim Acosta, however, said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (2/18, 554K) that “the headline” from the President’s comments, “no doubt about it, is that” he “defended his decision not to use terms like Islamic extremism or Islamic terrorism.”

On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (2/18, 1.53M), Ed Henry characterized Obama’s remarks as those of a “community organizer, trying to get local Muslim leaders to help stop the recruitment of young jihadists, but offering little urgency about Christians and Jews being slaughtered.” Doug McKelway, also on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (2/18, 1.53M), sounded a similar note, adding that yesterday Obama had “avoided naming the religious affiliation of ISIS’ Coptic Christian victims” in his Ash Wednesday message, which said, “quote, ‘We remember those suffering, including those persecuted for their faith.’” In his opening monologue for [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (2/18, 767K), Bill O’Reilly called the President “a reluctant warrior, not willing to define the jihadist atrocities as anything other than criminal actions...for fear of offending good Muslims around the world.”

“The White House found itself on the defensive Wednesday,” says the [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Boyer, 644K), as “accusations persist that the administration is bending over backwards to sympathize with Muslim victims of violence...while downplaying the religion of victims in other attacks.” Under the headline “White House Struggles With The Language Of Terrorism,” the [National Journal](#) (2/18, Condon, Subscription Publication, 111K) said the substance of Obama’s remarks is not all that different from that used by his predecessor, but is being perceived very differently. “In part,” said the Journal, that is due to the fact that “Obama has bewildered even his supporters by the reticence of his White House to state what seems obvious,” such as “the obvious facts that Jews were targeted in the Paris attack on a kosher deli and that Christians were targeted in the horrific mass beheadings by the Islamic State militants in Libya.”

Pressed on that issue, [The Hill](#) (2/18, Kamisar, 224K) reported, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said yesterday, “We’re very mindful of the fact that a particularly virulent strain of extremist ideology has tried to insert itself in the Muslim community, there’s no question about that,” and “we want to be focused on making sure that we are countering all of that. But that does not diminish in any way the concerns that we have that some extremist[s] have made some inroads into the Muslim communities in attempting to inspire them to carry out acts of violence or join their fight.”

Other aspects of the President’s remarks generated less media attention. The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Eilperin, 5.17M), for example, reports that after addressing the use of language issues, Obama said, “But we are here at this summit because of the urgent threat from groups like al-Qaeda and ISIL. ... And this week, we are focused on prevention, preventing these groups from radicalizing, recruiting or inspiring others to violence in the first place.” [USA Today](#) (2/19, Jackson, 10.32M) reports Obama also “said military force alone will not defeat terrorism, and the nation must work with local communities to reduce the influence of those who advocate

violent extremism," while on its front page, the [New York Times](#) (2/19, A1, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) quotes deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes similarly addressing the multifaceted nature of the night against extremism, "You could hypothetically eliminate the entire ISIL safe haven, but still face a threat from the kind of propaganda they disseminate over social media."

Along those lines, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/19, Sherry, 1.37M) reports Obama "offered some gentle but frank criticism at the assembled leaders, which included imams from Minnesota," saying, "The older people here, as wise and respected as you may be, your stuff is often boring compared to what they [terrorist recruiters] are doing. ... You're not connected. And as a consequence, you are not connecting." The [AP](#) (2/19, Ledeman) notes that Obama also called "directly on prominent Muslims to do more to distance themselves from brutal ideologies." The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/19, Alpert, 621K) quotes Obama as saying, "Everybody has to speak up very clearly that no matter what the grievance, violence against innocents doesn't defend Islam or Muslims, it damages Islam and Muslims."

[Reuters](#) (2/18, Edwards) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) also feature that Obama statement in their stories, and the [National Journal](#) (2/18, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 111K) reports the President went on to emphasize "the importance of targeting propaganda efforts by the Islamic State," saying, "Terrorist groups like al Qaeda and ISIL deliberately target their propaganda in the hopes of reaching and brainwashing young Muslims, especially those who may be disillusioned or wrestling with their identity. That's the truth."

The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Shane, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports "many advocates for Muslims appreciate Mr. Obama's care in keeping their religion separate from the terrorist groups whose claims they reject." Farhana Khera, executive director of Muslim Advocates, said yesterday, "We support the Obama administration and the administration before them for not falling into the Al Qaeda-ISIS trap of saying this is a religious war." However, Khera "complained that the name of the White House conference on the topic was too vague," because "while the label was 'violent extremism,' the vast majority of speakers spoke only about Islamic extremism, ignoring all other kinds." Likewise, [Politico](#) (2/18, Cowley, 683K) said that in his remarks, Obama "sounded more concerned about mollifying Muslim Americans who feel targeted by government outreach to their communities," but "even so, some Muslim American and civil rights leaders said much of Wednesday's session of the White House's three-day Countering Violent Extremism summit...was based on flawed premises," and that their community was "the obvious focus of the initiatives, even if they are described in the generic, non-religious terms that annoy conservatives."

The [Kuwait News Agency](#) (2/19) similarly reports that the Administration's "approach to the three-day summit...has drawn criticism for its focus on Muslim communities." KUNA adds that "only toward the end of his op-ed" in the [Los Angeles Times](#) Wednesday "did the president note that terrorism does not stem solely from Muslim communities." [Al Jazeera English](#) (2/18, 79K) notes on its website that during his address, Obama "mentioned a letter he received from a Muslim American girl," who "worried about people hating Muslims and asked Obama to tell everyone that Muslims were just like everyone else." Said Obama, "Everybody needs to remember that during the course of this debate as we move forward with these challenges." [Al Arabiya](#) (2/19, 22K) reports that the President also said, "The terrorists do not speak for a billion Muslims."

Maya Rhodan writes for [TIME](#) (2/18, Rhodan, 19.19M) that yesterday's sessions also "featured community leaders from Boston, Minneapolis and Los Angeles, all of which are hosting government-led initiatives to counter extremism." Meanwhile, "a small group of activists also showed up across the street to protest 'Islamophobia' and argue that Muslims are being unfairly targeted by these measures." The [Jerusalem Post](#) (2/18, Wilner, 31K) reports the summit continues Thursday "at the ministerial level at the Department of State. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, among other world leaders, will attend."

Gabbard: Summit "A Diversion." Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a Democrat, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (2/18, 554K) that the speech and the summit are "a diversion from where we need to be focused. If you look at this broad focus on countering violent extremism, which is very hard to define, it's a diversion away from the actual threat coming from this radical Islamic ideology that exists, not only for the United States, but really around the world." [The Hill](#) (2/18, Kamisar, 224K) noted that "Gabbard, a combat veteran who served in Iraq, has repeatedly criticized the White House for not defining militants from ISIS as Islamic extremists."

More Criticism Of The Summit. Andrea Mitchell, on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/18, 487K), described the summit as "more of a dog and pony show," and the [Military Times](#) (2/19, Pawlyk, 744K) reported that the Administration's "soft power approach"...has officials and the media speculating about whether the long-awaited summit is just for show." Writing for [The Blaze](#) (2/19, 2.17M), Publishing Manager Ben Weingarten

called the summit “a charade. And that is a charitable interpretation.” Weingarten later argued that “violent extremism is not an enemy, it’s a euphemism.” Steve Huntley, in the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/19, 1.11M), similarly criticized the speech and the summit, pointing out that its stated goal is “‘countering,’ not defeating, violent extremism, a k a terrorism.” Referring to recent comments by a State Department spokeswoman who said “we cannot kill our way out of this war,” Huntley wrote, “We can’t talk our way out of the terrorist threat with summits either.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), in an editorial, says the summit has deservedly sparked mockery because of the Administration’s decision not to mention the real enemy – Jihadist groups, according to the Journal – or to engage in the ideological war put forth by the terrorists. Stephen L. Carter, a [Bloomberg View](#) (2/18, Carter) columnist and law professor at Yale, writes under the headline “White House Summit On Extremism Is Useless Chatter” that “there is good reason to be skeptical that this week’s White House conference will add much to the general fund of information,” because “big public conferences – particularly those convened in Washington – rarely change very much.”

At Summit, Biden Reportedly Criticized Extremism Carried Out “In The Name Of The Bible.” The [Daily Caller](#) (2/18, Griswold, 318K) reported that “according to tweet by participants in the” CVE Summit, Biden on Tuesday referred to “violent extremism carried out ‘in the name of the Bible.’”

Harf Stands By Her Comments, Describes Kony As “Christian Militant Group.” [Politico](#) (2/18, Gass, 683K) reported State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf “is standing by comments she made earlier in the week, when she told MSNBC’s Chris Matthews that the US cannot win the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant ‘by killing our way out.’” Interviewed on MSNBC’s Moming Joe, Harf said, “I’m not sure I would take a mulligan on this one. ... In the short term, and I said this on ‘Hardball’ the other night, we are killing them and we will continue killing ISIS terrorists that pose a threat to us.” However, “you have to look at things like governance, like opportunity so these groups aren’t able to get more people to their cause, absolutely.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Ernst, 644K) noted that Harf added, “We have over 60 countries from around the world who are facing a number of different kinds of extremist threats. ... If you [look] at the Lord Resistance Army and Kony...that’s a Christian militant group. So there are a lot of different extremist threats we face and a lot of tools to go after each one of them.”

Giuliani Says Obama Doesn’t Love America. [Politico](#) (2/18, Samuelsohn, 683K) reports Rudy Giuliani “went straight for the jugular Wednesday night during a private group dinner...featuring Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker by openly questioning whether...Obama ‘loves America.’” Said Giuliani, “I do not believe, and I know this is a horrible thing to say, but I do not believe that the president loves America. ... He doesn’t love you. And he doesn’t love me. He wasn’t brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up through love of this country.”

Franklin Graham: Obama “Only Knows Islam” And Has Given It “A Pass.” The [Washington Times](#) (2/18, Chumley, 644K) reported that “the Rev. Franklin Graham said to a Fox News audience that...Obama is seriously understating the Islam tie to recent acts of terrorism around the world – but no wonder, he ‘only knows Islam,’” since “his mother was married to a Muslim,” and “his father was a Muslim,” plus he “went to Islamic schools. ... So his whole life, his experiences have been surrounded by Islam. He only knows Islam. And he has given a pass to Islam.”

Russian Intel Chief To Attend Summit. The AP (2/18, Lee) reported the State Department said yesterday that Russian intelligence chief Alexander Bortnikov will attend the summit “after Russia made a late request to expand its delegation.” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki “said the US welcomes Russia’s participation in the conference.” The [New York Times](#) (2/19, A1, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) quotes Psaki as saying, “Violent extremism and terrorism are problems that affect communities around the world, including Russia.” The Times notes that the EU “has put Mr. Bortnikov on its sanctions list because of the Ukraine crisis, but he is not subject to American sanctions.” However, notes the [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Morello, 5.17M), the State Department “has been critical of Russia’s approach to extremists in the past,” and “in a 2013 human rights report, it said Russia had used its anti-extremism laws to ‘harass, pressure, discredit, and/or prosecute’ government critics.”

NYTimes Analysis: “Increasingly Conservative Thinking” A Factor In Radicalization. The [New York Times](#) (2/19, El-Naggar, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports Muslim countries, along with the West, are “struggling to confront the rise of Islamic extremism and the brutality committed in the name of religion.” The Times examines how Egyptian Yaken Aly became an extremist, saying while “There are influences familiar and

easy to discuss...there are also more delicate subjects," such as "the increasingly conservative thinking that defines the faith for many Muslims today."

OBAMA LAWYERS "STRUGGLING" FOR RESPONSE TO JUDGE'S RULING ON IMMIGRATION. The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Shear, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the President's lawyers "are struggling for a response" to Judge Andrew Hanen's ruling blocking his action on immigration. According to a top Administration official, "it was unclear whether the Department of Justice would seek an emergency order that would allow the president's immigration programs to go into effect while an appeal proceeds."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Dinan, 644K) notes that while the President "insisted that the Homeland Security Department continue its preparations in case a higher court lifts Judge Hanen's injunction," Sen. Ted Cruz warned the Administration to "stop even planning for an eventual amnesty for illegal immigrants, saying a federal judge's broad injunction means it would be illegal for the Homeland Security Department to spend any money on President Obama's immigration plans." The Times notes that the warning "could leave the president open to another legal challenge."

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (2/19, Everett, 683K) reported that as Texas officials "took a victory lap" in celebration of Judge Andrew Hanen's order blocking enforcement of the President's actions on immigration, Gov. Greg Abbott "said he's confident the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals will side with Texas and 25 other states in trying to halt Obama's efforts to let some undocumented immigrants receive work permits and a temporary form of legal status."

The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Semple, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that immigrants and their advocates around the country denounced the judge's ruling and promised "a redoubled effort in support of the initiatives." The Times notes that while "some immigrants' advocates privately expressed concern about the chilling effect of the injunction, the public message on Wednesday was enthusiastic and determined."

Mexican Government "Regrets" Judge's Order. The government of Mexico has weighed-in on Judge Andrew Hanen's injunction halting the President's deportation amnesty program, the [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Dinan, 644K) reports. Mexico's Foreign Ministry argued that the decision "denies fair treatment to illegal immigrant Mexicans who have worked supporting the American economy," saying in a statement that it "regrets" the injunction. The statement noted, "These programs are a just remedy for millions of families and have the potential to strengthen the important contributions that Mexican immigrants make to the American economy and society."

Rubio Spokesman Denies He Called For Congress To Pass Clean DHS Funding Bill. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/18, Foley, 11.54M) reported under the headline "Marco Rubio Cries Uncle, Urges Congress To Fund DHS" that Sen. Marco Rubio has called on Congress to vote on DHS funding "without including controversial immigration measures that could risk a shutdown." [Politico](#) (2/19, Everett, 683K) reported that Rubio "didn't call for Republican leaders to pass a clean DHS bill — stripped of immigration language — as Democrats are demanding." Rubio spokesman Alex Conant "shot down any notion that Rubio was joining Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and calling for leadership to proceed to a bill with no riders," saying in an email, "Senator Rubio does not support a clean DHS funding bill that does not repeal the president's unconstitutional executive order on immigration."

McClatchy Analysis: Blunt Firms Up His Conservative Bona Fides With Role In DHS Funding Fight. [McClatchy](#) (2/18, Wise, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that Sen. Roy Blunt "has taken on a leading role in the fight against what he describes as Obama's 'lawless immigration power grab,'" co-sponsoring legislation to "block funding for the Department of Homeland Security to implement the president's new program." While Blunt "could end up bearing the brunt of the blame if a standoff with Democrats over the issue leads to a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security next week," McClatchy notes that for him, "the benefits of taking a high-profile stand in the immigration battle likely outweigh the risks, allowing him to burnish his conservative credentials ahead of his bid for re-election next year."

Commentators: Republicans Have More To Lose In DHS Funding Fight. A number of opinion pieces this morning indicate that Republicans should abandon the effort to use DHS funding to stop the President's immigration actions. In a piece for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Karl Rove writes that if no DHS funding bill is passed, the President and the media will blame congressional Republicans for the shutdown of the Department, which could be politically damaging. Rove argues Judge Andrew Hanen's ruling blocking the President's action is an opportunity for Republicans to remove themselves from the fight by adding a rider to the DHS funding bill denying funds for executing the presidential order that is under court challenge, which would force Democrats to go on record about the President's action.

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (2/18, Dionne, 5.17M), E.J. Dionne argues that the fight House Speaker Boehner wants to have with the President over his immigration actions "is doubly counterproductive." Support from Latinos is "one of the biggest obstacles" facing Republicans in their effort to win a majority in presidential elections. Moreover, a CNN/ORC poll this week "showed that 53 percent of Americans would blame Republicans in Congress for a DHS shutdown; only 30 percent would blame Obama."

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Barnes, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Weekly Standard executive editor Fred Barnes argues that if they are patient, Republicans can have the upper hand in legislative battles with the President, using the spending bills which comprise the budget to pass popular amendments, thereby forcing the President to accept them or veto agency funding, for which he would suffer politically. Barnes notes, however, that Republicans must show discipline and abandon their effort to overturn the President's executive order on immigration.

Similarly, [USA Today](#) (2/18, 10.32M) argues in an editorial that Hanen's decision "gives Republicans an escape route from the corner they've painted themselves into," enabling them to "drop the threat while the courts weigh the issue."

Meanwhile, in an accompanying op-ed in [USA Today](#) (2/18, Barletta, 10.32M), Rep. Lou Barletta argues that the nation's immigration laws exist "to protect national security and to preserve American jobs," and the President's "unlawful executive actions violate both of those principles." Barletta adds that Hanen's ruling "is correct, and the lawsuit brought by 26 states — a majority — should be allowed to proceed."

Walker Said To Face Difficult Balancing Act On Immigration. [Politico](#) (2/19, DeBenedetti, 683K) reported that while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker "was definitive when asked about his position on illegal immigration earlier this month," telling ABC News, "We need to secure the border. I think we need to enforce the legal system. I'm not for amnesty" as Milwaukee County Executive in 2006, he "stood on another side of that debate," signing "a resolution calling on Congress to pass the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act, a bill authored by John McCain and Teddy Kennedy that was denounced at the time by conservatives as 'amnesty' — and remains anathema to party activists." Politico noted that Walker "faces a tricky balancing act" on immigration policy and, to address it, he "will roll out an articulated immigration stance in the coming weeks."

Twenty New York School Districts Required To Drop Barriers To Immigrant Students. The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Mueller, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that New York's Attorney General's office announced Wednesday that 20 school districts in the state "found to be blocking access for undocumented immigrant children will be forced to modify their enrollment policies to break down illegal barriers to education." Kristen Clarke, chief of the office's Civil Rights Bureau, said that a "joint review by the State Education Department and the attorney general's office found a broad pattern of intransigence on the part of districts that, despite repeated instructions from federal and state law enforcement agencies, continued to bar children based on their immigration status." Under agreements reached with Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, the 20 districts will be compelled "to stop asking for documents such as Social Security cards that effectively exclude undocumented children from school."

INFLATION GAUGE DOWN, BUT HOUSING STARTS AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION BELOW EXPECTATIONS. A number of key economic reports were released on Wednesday, portraying a decidedly mixed view of the economy. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/19, Jamrisko, 2.94M) reports that industrial production rose 0.2 percent in January, following a 0.3 percent decline in December. Economists had expected production to increase 0.3 percent. Factory output, the largest component of industrial production, rose 0.2 percent, after a flat reading in December. Bloomberg says that the numbers suggest that the economy is "off to a slow start in 2015."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Mitchell, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that according to Commerce Department data released on Wednesday, housing starts fell two percent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.065 million units. The decline was driven by a decline in starts of single-family homes. Economists had expected starts to come in at 1.07 million units. Still, starts were still up 17 percent from the same period last year. In addition, applications for building permits, a measure of future starts, was down 0.7 percent.

[Reuters](#) (2/19, Mutikani) reports that the Department of Labor said on Wednesday that the Producer Price Index, a measure of inflation at the wholesale level, fell 0.8 percent in January, the largest drop since 2009, when comparable reports began. That's the third consecutive drop in the PPI. Economists had expected the PPI to fall

by only 0.4 percent in January. Over the previous 12 months, the PPI is flat. The core PPI, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, fell 0.3 percent in January. [USA Today](#) (2/19, Healey, 10.32M) reports that leading the drop was a 24 percent drop in gasoline prices.

Fed Minutes Suggest Hesitancy To Raise Rates. [USA Today](#) (2/19, Davidson, 10.32M) reports that on Wednesday that the Fed released the minutes of its January 27-28 meeting, in which policymakers "expressed growing concerns last month about low inflation and said they were inclined to keep interest rates near zero for longer to avoid derailing the recovery." The minutes showed "no further signal" of when Fed officials "plan to raise short-term rates for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis" but "they indicated that they see more risk in raising rates earlier than anticipated rather than later." Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Appelbaum, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says that the Fed "is not sounding as if it is ready to raise its benchmark interest rate in June."

[McClatchy](#) (2/19, Hall, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that the minutes said that "many participants observed that a premature increase in rates might damp the apparent solid recovery in real activity and labor market conditions, undermining progress" toward the Fed's dual goal of full employment and modest inflation. Still, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/18, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the debate over when to raise rates appeared to take on more urgency than it had in past meetings.

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (2/18, Jamrisko, Yadoo, 2.94M) reports that the verbosity of the Fed minutes (at more than 8,000 words) drew comment. The "loquaciousness tendency risks more than some good-natured audience heckling, as one of the Fed's regional banks has pointed out." Researchers at the St. Louis Fed said in November that "more words can mean more confusion, 'which could unsettle financial markets if they are too difficult to understand.'"

Stocks Mixed On Wednesday. [USA Today](#) (2/19, Healey, Davidson, 10.32M) reports that stocks were mixed on Wednesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 17.85 points on Wednesday to 18,029.85, while the S&P 500 dropped 0.70 points to 2,099.62. For its part, the Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 7.10 points to 4,096.36.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*When One Penalty Is Enough.*" The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorializes that "millions of Americans may be in for a shock when they file tax returns and learn that they have to pay a fine for failing to enroll in health insurance in 2014 and an even bigger fine for failing to enroll in 2015 before the enrollment period ended on Feb. 15." The Times argues that a "special enrollment period" should be opened "that lasts beyond April 15, the traditional filing time for most taxpayers," in order to "be fair to millions of consumers who remain uninformed about the health care law and ignorant about the subsidies it provides and the penalties for failing to enroll."

"Regulating The Drone Economy." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) backs new rules for drone use proposed Sunday by the FAA, arguing that they are "so important" and represent "a sensible starting point for a new technology." Noting the rapid rise in use of the devices, the Times says "it's appropriate to set sound safety and privacy rules."

"A Judge's Idea For Grand Jury Reform." The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, makes note of recently proposed ideas for reforming the grand-jury system in cases involving police brutality, which it says share "two straightforward goals: to restore public trust in the justice system and to eliminate the basic conflict of interest that district attorneys face when prosecuting the same police officers they depend on daily to do their jobs." The Times argues that the "clearest sign that reform is necessary is that prosecutors and the police resist it at nearly every turn," and calls on lawmakers to "give these proposals serious consideration" to restore public trust.

WASHINGTON POST. "*Currency Manipulation.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M) says, "Injecting currency manipulation rules into the trade-promotion bill at this late date could cause a rebellion by TPP negotiating partners" and possibly cause the failing of the "entire project." The Post calls on Congress to "keep this poison pill out of the law," permitting the executive branch "to handle currency issues on a separate diplomatic track."

"Russia Uninhibited." The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M) editorializes that Russian President Vladimir Putin's "latest victory in Ukraine is turning into a rout," and "European leaders will not stop Russian aggression

without a determined US president.” According to the Post, Ukrainians “must be wondering how much more of their country must fall” for President Obama “to set aside his ‘strategic patience.’”

“Metro Needs A Makeover.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“The Ideological Islamist Threat.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), in an editorial, says the White House Summit on Countering Extremism has deservedly sparked mockery because of the Administration’s decision not to mention the real enemy – Jihadist groups, according to the Journal – or to engage in the ideological war put forth by the terrorists.

“Cordially Re-Invited.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) applauds the William F. Buckley Program at Yale for announcing its “First Annual Disinvitation Dinner,” the start of a series that will host speakers who have been invited to speak at US universities, only to be later disinvited because their views drew the ire of campus progressives. The first event will be held in New York City on April 15 and will be keynoted by George Will.

“Illinois’s New Math.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) praises Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner’s proposed budget, which the Journal says will force the state’s politicians to limit spending.

“Britain’s Economic Debate.” An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) questions why, with Conservatives and Labour running so close in polls ahead of Britain’s general election in May, Prime Minister David Cameron is not embracing the policies of lower taxes and spending restraint instead of touting more spending.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

- [Lending To Subprime Borrowers Picks Up](#)
- [‘It’s Capture Or Death’: Ukraine Soldiers Recount Retreat](#)
- [Fed Tiptoes Into Rate-Hike Debate](#)
- [Record Offers Jeb Bush Cover From The Right](#)

New York Times:

- [From Cairo Private School To Syria’s Killing Fields](#)
- [Obama Urges Global United Front Against Extremist Groups Like ISIS](#)
- [Faulted for Avoiding ‘Islamic’ Labels to Describe Terrorism, White House Cites a Strategic Logic](#)
- [A Bid For Guns On Campuses To Deter Rape](#)
- [Bloody Retreat Adds To Doubt For Ukraine Truce](#)
- [On Criminal Justice, The Right And The Left Meet In The Center](#)

Washington Post:

- [Veterans Grapple With Restrictions On Narcotics](#)
- [Clintons’ Foundation A Financial Juggernaut](#)
- [Bush Steps Gingerly Into Domain Of Foreign Policy](#)
- [Rout Has Ukraine Pleading For Help](#)
- [For Ukraine Troops, A Long And Demoralizing Trek To Safety](#)
- [An Opportunity To Revitalize An Orchestra](#)

Financial Times:

- [Fresh Blow For HSBC As Swiss Prosecutor Launches Historic Raid](#)
- [\\$1Bn Of Insurance Cover Needed For Cyber Attacks, Companies Wamed](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

- ABC: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Boston; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; California-Refinery Explosion; American Sniper Murder Trial; Breast Cancer Treatment Breakthrough; Jeb Bush Speech; Guardrail Investigation; Las Vegas-Murder Investigation; NASA-Meteor Sighting.
- CBS: Severe Winter Weather; New Jersey-Teenager Rescued; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; Severe Winter

Weather-Niagara Falls; Jeb Bush; Obama-ISIL Threat; ISIL Threat-Analysis; American Sniper Murder Trial; US Sniper Training; Retirement Survey; California-Refinery Explosion; Chicago-Pullman Historic District. NBC: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; California-Refinery Explosion; West Virginia-Train Derailment Investigation; ISIL Threat; Obama-ISIL Threat; Secret Service Director Selected; Ukraine Crisis; American Sniper Murder Trial; Jeb Bush Speech; Severe Winter Weather-Driving Safety; Breast Cancer Treatment Breakthrough; UMass-Iranian Nationals Ban Reversed; NASA-Meteor Sighting.

Network TV At A Glance:

- Severe Winter Weather – 13 minutes, 15 seconds
- Jeb Bush Speech – 6 minutes
- ISIL Threat – 5 minutes, 20 seconds
- California-Refinery Explosion – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
- American Sniper Murder Trial – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
- Obama-ISIL Threat – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
- Breast Cancer-Treatment Breakthrough – 1 minute, 10 seconds
- NASA-Meteor Sighting – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Obama-ISIL Threat; Arizona-Kayla Mueller Memorial; UCLA Medical Center-Potential Superbug Exposure; Washington-Florist Discrimination Ruling; Bruce Jenner Car Crash Investigation.
 CBS: UCLA Medical Center-Potential Superbug Exposure; Obama-ISIL Threat; Pentagon Spokesman Steps Down; Secret Service Director Selected; Severe Winter Weather; Wall Street.
 FOX: UCLA Medical Center-Potential Superbug Exposure; ISIL Threat-Italy; American Sniper Murder Trial; NFL Scouting Combine; Wall Street; NBC-Nightly News Ratings.
 NPR: ISIL Threat-Libya; Arizona-Kayla Mueller Memorial; West Coast Port Labor Dispute; West Virginia-Train Derailment; Syria-Aleppo Violence; Canada-High School Strip Search Incident; Thailand-Fomer Prime Minister Indicted.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President delivers remarks as part of the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, State Department, pooled press; designates the Browns Canyon National Monument, Oval Office, photojournalist; departs the White House, South Lawn, open press; departs Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives Chicago, Illinois, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, open to pre-credentialed media; delivers remarks, Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, Chicago, Illinois, open to pre-credentialed media; departs Illinois, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, open to pre-credentialed media; arrives Joint Base Andrews, out-of-town travel pool coverage; arrives the White House. South Lawn, open press. Notes: Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz will gaggle aboard Air Force One.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden will visit the Extravaganza Depot in Charlotte, North Carolina to discuss the importance of investing in America's infrastructure. The event is the last of three stops that the Vice President will join on Secretary Anthony Foxx and the Department of Transportation's GROW AMERICA tour.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: No Scheduled Events.

Other: **USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM** — Feb. 19 – 20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced speakers for the 2015 Agricultural Outlook Forum, "Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century". Speaking at the 25 breakout sessions and five topical luncheons will be more than 100 distinguished experts. Breakout session topics on the agenda include: Perspectives on Global and U.S. Trade; Big Data's Impact on U.S. Agriculture; Commodity Situation and Outlooks; Food Price and Farm Income Outlooks; Moving Feed, Food and Fuel to Market; Opportunities in the Bio-Economy; Antimicrobial Resistance; and Bee/Pollinator Issues Facing Agriculture. Media planning on attending should register before the deadline at <https://www.etches.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=107650&>. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. Contacts: Brenda Chapin (202) 720-5447. On the Net: www.usda.gov/oc/forum

DNC WINTER MEETING — Feb. 19 – 21. 2015 DNC Winter Meeting. At the first General Session on Friday,

members will hear from President Barack Obama. At a second General Session on Saturday, members will hear from DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear. In addition, Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy will speak to the meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. You must RSVP to ChangE@dnc.org by 6PM, Wednesday, February 18th indicating which days you plan to attend. Due to space constraints, a limited number of credentials will be issued for General Session on Friday. All those receiving credentials will be notified on the 18th after RSVPs close. Please include "DNC Meeting RSVP" in the subject. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW. Contacts: DNC 202-863-8000. DNC press office 202-863-8148. On the Net: <http://www.democrats.org>

GEORGETOWN – INFRASTRUCTURE — 9:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Georgetown University Law Center hosts a Public Private Partnership Symposium: Partnering with State and Local Governments to Revitalize Critical Infrastructure. Speakers: Douglas L. Peterson, President & CEO of McGraw Hill Financial (keynote); Rep. John K. Delaney (D-Md.), L'88. <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/news/press-releases/public-private-partnership-symposium.cfm>. Location: Gewirz Student Center, Georgetown Law campus at 120 F Street, NW. Notes: Media RSVP: mediarelations@law.georgetown.edu

ANALYSIS – EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN — 8 a.m. Analysis Group energy consultants release a new independent report examining the impacts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan on electric system reliability in the United States. Senior adviser Susan Tiemey, an expert on energy policy and economics specializing in the electric and gas industries, will walk reporters through the top-line findings of the new report and take questions. The study, coauthored by Dr. Tiemey, is being released in conjunction with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Winter Committee Meeting and a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hearing to examine how the Clean Power Plan will affect the U.S. power system. Location: Bistro Bis Restaurant, 15 E St. NW. Contacts: Eileen Harrington (eileen.harrington@analysisgrou), 617-425-8193.

PETERSON – NATHAN SHEETS — 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Presentation by Nathan Sheets, U.S. Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs. Following his return from the G20 Finance Ministerial meeting, Dr. Sheets will provide his perspective on the global economy. Registration is 8:15a; discussion begins at 8:45 a.m. RSVP: Brian Reil, media@piie.com or (202) 454-1334. If you plan to attend you must RSVP by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16. Location: Bergsten Conference Center, Peterson Institute, 1750 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Contacts: Yvonne Priestly meetings@piie.com. Notes: Rescheduled from Feb. 17.

BROOKINGS – AGE OF THE MACHINE — 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Future of Work in the Age of the Machine: A Hamilton Project Policy Forum. Opening remarks will be delivered by former U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin. Following opening remarks, Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, of the Center for Digital Business at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management and authors of the best-selling book, *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies* (W.W. Norton, 2014). There will be two panel discussions as well. Participants include Arati Prabhakar of DARPA, David Autor of MIT, Aneesh Chopra of Hunch Analytics, Laura D. Tyson of University of California, Berkeley, John Haltiwanger of University of Maryland, and Lawrence H. Summers of Harvard University. Location: NOTE LOCATION: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. On the Net: <http://www.brookings.edu>.

AEI – OHLHAUSEN — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Regulatory humility in practice: Remarks by FTC Commissioner Maureen Ohlhausen. Maureen Ohlhausen, a commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, has called for regulatory humility, but what does that mean in practice for issues such as online privacy, the Internet of Things, and net neutrality regulation. Location: AEI, Wohlstetter Conference Center, 12th floor, 1150 Seventeenth St., NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: "Remember when they shut down the government last year? Was anybody in this room affected by not having a government? No. We don't care. I had a buddy of mine works in government. Had a couple of days off, went to the ballpark."

Jimmy Fallon: "Chris Christie addressed recent stories about his change in personality and said there's only one Chris Christie. He said the only time there's two Chris Christies is when he's buying seats on a plane."

Jimmy Fallon: "Hey guys, I heard about a new book called 'Party like a President.' It gives recipes for past presidents' favorite drinks. Like, Eisenhower loved egg nog. I didn't know that. Thomas Jefferson liked white wine spritzers. George W. Bush liked finger paint."

Seth Meyers: "At the swearing-in of new Defense Secretary Ash Carter, Vice President Biden was seen massaging Carter's wife while her husband gave a speech. ... And my question is this: How is this new Defense Secretary going to protect us from ISIS, if he can't even protect his wife from Joe Biden?"

Seth Meyers: "The 2016 election race is getting underway and this afternoon, Jeb Bush outlined his plan for American foreign policy. Then his brother George colored it in."

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 11:07 AM

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council
NRDC @NRDC

#Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument.
<http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness
ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

Sierra Club @sierraclub
On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement:
<http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness
News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Maria Nájera

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☎ 202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Pullman Historic Park Outreach - Invitation to edit

1 message

Maria Najera (via Google Sheets) <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: steven_avila@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 11:46 AM

maria_najera@ios.doi.gov has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:

 [Pullman Historic Park Outreach](#)

[Open in Sheets](#)

Google Sheets: Create and edit spreadsheets online.





Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Notifications for Pullman/HI/CO

5 messages


John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 11:18 AM

Hey there: can you please quickly track down the email addresses for the folks on this list? Some are NPS staff but the others might be harder.

Thanks! jb

John Blair
Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov


 **Book1.xlsx**
9K

Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 11:47 AM

From: John Blair [mailto:john_blair@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 11:18 AM
To: Steven Avila
Subject: FW: Notifications for Pullman/HI/CO

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Notifications of Pullman.HI.CO.xlsx**
12K

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:07 PM

Thanks! Isn't Steve Ellis with BLM?

From: Steven Avila [mailto:steven_avila@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 11:47 AM
To: John Blair
Subject: RE: Notifications for Pullman/HI/CO

[Quoted text hidden]

Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:10 PM

There is a Steve Ellis that works for NPS but Maria confirmed you are looking for the one who works at BLM – sorry about that!

sellis@blm.gov

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Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 12:07 PM
To: Steven Avila
Subject: RE: Notifications for Pullman/HI/CO

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Subject: RE: Notifications for Pullman/HI/CO

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Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:12 PM

Thanks!

From: Steven Avila [mailto:steven_avila@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 12:11 PM
To: John Blair
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sellis@blm.gov

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Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

First	Last
Phyllis	Ellin
Steve	Ellis
Mary	Hasten
Linda	Lance
Gloria	Nichele-Rosenthal
Peggy	O'Dell
Chris	Powell
Alfonso	Quiroz
Ramon	Quiroz
Molly	Ross
Julia	Stasch
Patty	Trap
Kip	Walton
Roberta	Wendell

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

First	Last		
Phyllis	Ellin	phyllis_ellin@nps.gov	
Steve	Ellis	steven_ellis@nps.gov	National Park Foundation director Brien O'Brien and his wife Mary Hasten of Chicago
Mary	Hasten		
Linda	Lance	llance@blm.gov	
Gloria	Nichele-Rosenthal	glore.le@live.com	
Peggy	O'Dell	peggy_o'dell@nps.gov	
Chris	Powell	chris_powell@nps.gov	
Alfonso	Quiroz		
Ramon	Quiroz		
Molly	Ross	molly_ross@nps.gov	Interim President - MacArthur Foundation
Julia	Stasch	jstasch@macfound.org	
Patty	Trap	patricia_trap@nps.gov	
Kip	Walton	kipton_walton@nps.gov	
Roberta	Wendell	roberta_wendel@nps.gov	

External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Pullman National Monument, IL..... 2
 Elected Officials 2
 External Stakeholders 3
 Twitter 7

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO 8
 Elected Officials 8
 External Stakeholders 10
 Twitter 26

Honouliuli National Monument, HI..... 27
 Elected Officials 27
 External Stakeholders 29
 Twitter 29

Every Kid in a Park 37
 External Stakeholders 37
 Twitter 40

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) **NEW**

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on

the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President's announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) NEW

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city’s Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — to protect many of America's most treasured

places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument. <http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro NEW

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin NEW

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth NEW

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/JklOX>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Browns Canyon National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) NEW

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

External Stakeholders

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado’s Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

“Today’s comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This moment designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado’s bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won’t take action protect these deserving public lands, then the president should.”

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was “outraged” by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. “It would promote tourism,” Lamborn said at the time. “There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks.”

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a “top-down, big-government land grab,” bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn’s predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, “the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape.”

3) Rep. Buck's comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck's inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

**Trout Unlimited
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation**

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

“I'm thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

“Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country,” said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. “It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come.”

“This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen,” said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. “Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of

elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama’s Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President’s action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The

rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

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“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing

opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

“Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County,” stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. “As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children.”

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon,” stated former U.S.

Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

###

Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what

we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) NEW

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America’s wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada’s Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

“My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by

offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing.”

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

“Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect.”

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation NEW

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans' reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

"I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years," said Reppenhagen. "Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price."

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument NEW

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

"For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That's why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon."

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

"The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future."

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

"We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It's a place that's meaningful to many people, and it's an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer."

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- **Outdoor Industry Association**

Twitter

Sierra Club NEW

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society NEW

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation NEW

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

###

Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President’s executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

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External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President's announcement in Chicago.

"Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country," stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. "As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President's use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans."

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God's creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

"As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God's creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation," Bruckbauer continued. "The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play."

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O'ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai'i. Built on 160 acres in west O'ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or "hell valley." Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O'ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai'i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai'i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai'i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

"As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i**.

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai'i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai'i's congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i since 1998 and rediscovered the location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

“On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site.”

“As our country’s premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country’s history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today’s announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site’s resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors.”

“NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service’s study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality.”

“As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country’s ‘best idea’ a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history.”

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai’i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama’s Designation of Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama’s designation of Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation’s complex history associated with civil rights,” said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National

Trust for Historic Preservation. “President Obama’s designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.”

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai’i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai’i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) NEW

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city’s Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown’s Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," **said Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The**

Wilderness Society. “They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

Outdoor Industry Association **NEW**

President's Announcement on "Every Kid in a Park" and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama's announcement today promoting the new "Every Kid in a Park" initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America's "best idea," our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America's youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president's call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind "Every Kid in a Park," including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

"We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it's what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative," said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. "We accept the president's challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children's interaction with the outdoors a national priority."

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country's newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual

contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative NEW

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every

Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest." - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

"We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives." - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

"Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America's public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards." - **Collin O'Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

"The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America's public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation's natural resources." - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

"The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!" - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

"Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls' understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them." - **Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

Twitter

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) NEW

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks an public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Courtesy Copy: Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Action to Establish Pullman National Monument

1 message

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 3:16 PM
To: govdelivery.prod@doi.gov, tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov, larry_gillick@ios.doi.gov, kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov, blake_androff@ios.doi.gov, jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov, emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, john_blair@ios.doi.gov, maria_najera@ios.doi.gov, steven_avila@ios.doi.gov, lauren_lambert@ios.doi.gov, rebecca_matulka@ios.doi.gov, asmall@blm.gov

This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Anthony Small.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Internal Group, Press in Illinois, Press in Wisconsin, Updated Print and Media List (2518 recipients)



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov
News Release

Date: February 19, 2015
Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Christine Powell (NPS), chris_powell@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Action to Establish Pullman National Monument

Chicago's First National Park Honors Labor, Civil Rights Movements

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell applauded President Obama's action today to establish the Pullman National Monument in Chicago, Illinois. The monument will protect and interpret America's first planned industrial town and a site associated with important milestones in the labor and civil rights movements.

The Pullman National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama today that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans. He also launched an "Every Kid in a Park" initiative that will provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year. Find out more [here](#).

"National parks are America's story teller, so it's fitting that we are including Pullman and the neighborhood's rich history in the national park system," said Secretary Jewell. "Chicago's first national park will help preserve and honor

the stories associated with this unique factory town and the Pullman Company – from the industrial revolution to the struggle for civil rights and economic opportunity.”

The Pullman National Monument is located in Chicago’s South Side on the original Pullman town site. The town was created in the 1880s by the Pullman Palace Car Company to serve as a model factory town to manufacture railroad passenger cars and house factory workers and their families.

“As the National Park Service’s newest urban park, the Pullman National Monument will allow Chicagoans and visitors from around the world to discover the diverse experiences offered in national parks,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “We look forward to working with the community to share the important stories that unfolded here, including the growth of American industry, civil rights and labor relations.”

Within the monument’s 200-acre boundary, the National Park Service currently owns the iconic Administration Clock Tower Building, donated to the nation by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. This building will contain a visitor center, offering exhibits and programs designed to engage schoolchildren, the community and visitors about the importance of Pullman to American history.

The National Park Service will work closely with State agencies, the City of Chicago, community residents, neighborhood organizations and other groups that have worked hard over the years to preserve the site. The National Park Service will conduct a management planning process with full public involvement.

Additionally, the National Park Foundation today **announced** that they have raised nearly \$8 million from individual donors and organizations to support the development of the new visitor center and programs at Pullman National Monument.

George Mortimer Pullman founded the Pullman Palace Car Company in 1867, and its factories employed thousands of workers to construct the lavish railroad cars, which transformed the experience of passenger railroad travel.

The town of Pullman was a completely planned model community, representing a departure from the over-crowded and unsanitary living conditions found in working-class districts in other 19th century industrial cities and towns. All the town’s facilities and structures—industrial, cultural, religious, recreational, and residential—were coordinated to provide ideal conditions for the workingmen. Most of these historic features remain intact today.

While the Pullman Company employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture the cars, George Pullman recruited the first porters, waiters and maids from the population of former house slaves to serve on the sleeping cars. These service jobs, while lower-paying, held prestige in the African American community and played a major role in the rise of the African American middle class and the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th Century.

In 1893, the worst economic depression in American history prior to the Great Depression hit the country. Orders at the Pullman Company declined. The Pullman Company lowered its workers’ wages but not the rent it charged those workers for company housing. This angered workers and sparked the Pullman strike of 1894. American Railway Union members nationwide boycotted Pullman cars, paralyzing most of the railroads west of Detroit and threatening the national economy. Invoking the Sherman Antitrust Act for the first time against a union, President Grover Cleveland intervened with Federal troops, and the strike ended violently by mid-July 1894.

Before the Pullman strike ended, Congress passed legislation designating Labor Day a Federal holiday in an effort to placate workers throughout the country.

The Pullman Company was the focus of another nationally significant labor development, when, in 1937, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an influential African-American union founded by A. Philip Randolph, successfully negotiated a labor contract for the porters from the company. The agreement served as a model for other African American workers and significantly contributed to the rise of the civil rights movement in the United States.

The area was first recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1970. In 2013, the National Park Service completed a reconnaissance survey of the Pullman Historic District that affirmed the site’s national significance.

The designation is strongly supported by congressional, state and local leaders, community groups and historical organizations as a way to promote historic preservation and generate economic activity.

An independent **report** from the National Park Conservation Association estimates that the national monument

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designation could bring more than 300,000 visitors a year, create 350 jobs and generate \$40 million in local economic activity.

The Pullman National Monument is bounded by East 115th and East 103rd Streets, and South Cottage Grove Avenue and the Norfolk and Western railroad tracks. Though some of the larger buildings have been demolished, many of the historically significant public buildings, public spaces, and worker housing remain, including the Administration Clock Tower Building, the Factory Complex, Hotel Florence, Greenstone Church, the Pullman Fire Station, Market Hall, Pullman Wheelworks, the stables, Arcade Park and Pullman Park.

More information about the new monument is available at <http://www.nps.gov/pull>.

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Pullman is official! Blog post is now live

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 4:08 PM
 To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
 Cc: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

From: Craig Obey [mailto:cobey@npca.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 3:58 PM
To: Nicole Buffa (nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov); John Blair
Subject: Pullman is official! Blog post is now live

Nikki and John:

Great speech today. Congratulations and thank you! Hope you're staying warm. Below is a link to our latest blog on Pullman, which is now live.

Craig

FAQs from @NPCA on Chicago's first national park site: <http://parkb.it/pm-14>



Pullman-Administration-Building-Historic-Pullman-Foundation-Robert-Shymanski.jpg
126K

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00068988-OEI-BATCH028-DOC0020-ATT-20240 Page 1 of 1



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

tweets

2 messages

Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
To: maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 11:44 AM

Steven Avila
Special Assistant, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior
W: 202-208-6015 | C: 202-215-2502

 **Monument Tweets.docx**
15K

Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
To: maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 4:33 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Monument Tweets.docx**
15K

Pullman District:

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/Jkl0X>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Brown's Canyon:

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Honouliuli:

Pullman District:

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/Jkl0X>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Brown's Canyon:

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Honouliuli:

Every Kid in a Park:

Trust for Public Land

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 5:40 PM

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

From: Meghan Kissell [mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 5:40 PM

To: John Blair

Subject: RE: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Hi John,

One more batch of press releases on the Browns Canyon designation. Folks were extremely happy with the President's remarks this afternoon and with the joint USDA/DOI statement that mentioned the National Conservation Lands.

- American Whitewater
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>
- The Conservation Alliance
<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>
- HECHO - Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors
<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>
- Small Business Majority
<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>
- Trout Unlimited
<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>
- Vet Voice Foundation
<http://www.vetvoicefoundation.org/press/veterans-thank-you-for-making-browns-canyon-a-national-monument>

Thanks,

Meghan

From: Meghan Kissell [mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 6:09 PM
To: 'John Blair'
Subject: RE: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Hi John,

A few(!) more press releases on the monument announcements today:

- Center for Western Priorities
<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>
- Conservation Colorado (attached)
- Creation Justice Ministries http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf
- Environmental Learning for Kids (attached)
- Hispanic Access Foundation (attached)
- JCCH and JAHL Honolulu (attached)
- League of Conservation Voters
<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) (attached)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>
- National Parks Conservation Association
<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

- National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

- Pew Charitable Trusts (attached)
- Sierra Club Colorado (attached)

- Sierra Club

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

- Sportsmen for Browns Canyon (attached)

- The Wilderness Society

<http://wilderness.org/press-release/wilderness-society-statement-creation-browns-canyon-honouliuli-and-pullman-national>

Meghan

From: John Blair [mailto:john_blair@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:12 AM
To: Meghan Kissell
Subject: RE: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Thanks, Meghan!! Exciting news!!

From: Meghan Kissell [<mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:07 AM
To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Hi John,

Wonderful news this morning. I just wanted to make sure you saw the press releases from both the Friends of Browns Canyon and the Conservation Lands Foundation. I'm sure there will be more throughout the day.

Kind regards,

Meghan

Meghan Kissell

National Monuments Campaign Communications Director

Conservation Lands Foundation

202-429-8447 - office

571-643-3526 - cell

www.conservationlands.org



Conservation
Lands
Foundation

Protecting America's Heritage



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

America's Great Outdoors Tumblr updates

2 messages

U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:05 PM

Reply-To: interior@updates.interior.gov

To: steven_avila@ios.doi.gov

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You are subscribed to America's Great Outdoors Tumblr updates for U.S. Department of the Interior.

[America's public lands like you've never seen them!...](#)

02/19/2015 11:00 AM EST



Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah by David Lane



Crater Lake National Park in Oregon by Greg Nyquist (www.sharetheexperience.org)



Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah by Katie McVey, USFWS



The Wave in Arizona by Bob Wick, BLM.

America's public lands like you've never seen them! Public Radio International highlights the top 20 photos from our Instagram account: <http://on.doi.gov/1Leyle9>.

Here's some of them —

Top photo: [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#) in Utah is otherworldly, with vast landscapes of canyons, winding rugged backways and balanced rocks. Pictured here is the monument's Toadstools — stone caps of Dakota Sandstone protecting the softer sandstone create amazing hoodoos. David Lane created this stunning multi-image panorama of the area with the Milky Way above and radiating bands of red and green airglow visible. While Page, Arizona, is nearly 50 miles south of the monument (and a soft, barely discernible light to the naked eye), the long exposure of David's camera captured the light more vividly.

Photo courtesy of David Lane.

Second photo: Sunrise over snow-covered [Crater Lake National Park](#) in Oregon. Greg Nyquist captured this stunning shot from Discovery Point just as a storm was clearing the park. Crater Lake's Discovery Point is a popular place to watch the sun rise over the park with views of the lake and Wizard Island. Photo from www.sharetheexperience.org

Third photo: [Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge](#) lies in northern Utah, where the Bear River flows into the northeast arm of the Great Salt Lake. The Refuge protects the marshes found at the mouth of the Bear River, providing a critical habitat for migrating birds. More than 250 species move through this area annually by the millions to rest and feed, including the group of baby burrowing owls pictured here. Photo by Katie McVey, USFWS.

Bottom photo: Located on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument includes a variety of diverse landscapes — from the Paria Plateau and Vermilion Cliffs to the Coyote Buttes and Paria Canyon. This remote and unspoiled 280,000-acre Monument — a part of BLM's National Conservation Lands — is a geologic treasure with towering cliffs and deep canyons. The colorful swirls of cross-bedded sandstone in Coyote Buttes, which include The Wave pictured here, are an international hiking destination. Photo by Bob Wick, mypubliclands.

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U.S. Department of the Interior <interior@updates.interior.gov>
Reply-To: interior@updates.interior.gov
To: steven_avila@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 6:05 PM

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Today, President Obama announced three new national monuments,...

02/19/2015 05:43 PM EST





Today, President Obama announced [three new national monuments](#), including the gorgeous Brown Canyon National Monument pictured here. Located in Colorado, Browns Canyon will protect a stunning section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley, which features rugged granite cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and mountain vistas that are home to a diversity of plants and wildlife. It is also one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the U.S.

The other new national monuments are Pullman National Monument in Illinois — a location iconic for its history of labor unrest and civil rights advances — and Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii — the site of an internment camp where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. Since taking office, President Obama has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters — more than any other President — helping to ensure that our public lands preserve all of America's history. #FindYourPark

Photos of Browns Canyon by Bob Wick, BLM ([mypubliclands](#)).

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>


External Statements for Pullman, CO, HI and Every Kid

5 messages

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:40 PM
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Maria Najera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
☎ 202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

 **External Statements - IL.CO.HI.EKIAP 02 19.docx**
78K


Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 6:17 PM
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>


Two docs attached

- 1) All statements with new ones highlighted
- 2) New statements only

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

 **External Statements - IL.CO.HI.EKIAP 02 19.docx**
93K

 **External Statements - Updates 02 19 15 PM.docx**
32K

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:10 PM
To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Did you guys include the tweet from my R Mayor from TX? 😊

From: Najera, Maria [mailto:maria_najera@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:18 PM
To: John Blair; Steven Avila
Subject: External Statements for Pullman, CO, HI and Every Kid

[Quoted text hidden]

Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:11 PM

To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Nope. I dropped the ball...

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:16 PM

No worries! Can add to the list we keep. 😊

From: Maria Najera [mailto:maria_najera@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 7:12 PM
To: John Blair
Cc: Steven Avila
Subject: Re: External Statements for Pullman, CO, HI and Every Kid

[Quoted text hidden]

External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Pullman National Monument, IL..... 2
 Elected Officials 2
 External Stakeholders 3
 Twitter 7

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO 8
 Elected Officials 8
 External Stakeholders 10
 Twitter 26

Honouliuli National Monument, HI..... 27
 Elected Officials 27
 External Stakeholders 29
 Twitter 29

Every Kid in a Park 37
 External Stakeholders 37
 Twitter 40

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) **NEW**

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on

the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President's announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) NEW

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city’s Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — to protect many of America's most treasured

places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument. <http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro NEW

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin NEW

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth NEW

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/JklOX>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Browns Canyon National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) NEW

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

External Stakeholders

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado’s Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

“Today’s comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This monument designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado’s bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won’t take action to protect these deserving public lands, then the president should.”

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was “outraged” by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. “It would promote tourism,” Lamborn said at the time. “There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks.”

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a “top-down, big-government land grab,” bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn’s predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, “the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape.”

3) Rep. Buck's comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck's inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

**Trout Unlimited
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation**

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

“I'm thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

“Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country,” said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. “It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come.”

“This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen,” said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. “Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of

elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama’s Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President’s action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The

rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing

opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

“Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County,” stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. “As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children.”

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon,” stated former U.S.

Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

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Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what

we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) NEW

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America’s wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada’s Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

“My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by

offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing.”

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

“Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect.”

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation NEW

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans' reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

"I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years," said Reppenhagen. "Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price."

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument NEW

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

"For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That's why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon."

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

"The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future."

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

"We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It's a place that's meaningful to many people, and it's an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer."

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- **Outdoor Industry Association**

Twitter

Sierra Club NEW

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society NEW

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation NEW

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

###

Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President’s executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President's announcement in Chicago.

"Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country," stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. "As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President's use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans."

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God's creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

"As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God's creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation," Bruckbauer continued. "The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play."

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O'ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai'i. Built on 160 acres in west O'ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or "hell valley." Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O'ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai'i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai'i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai'i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

"As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i**.

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai'i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai'i's congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i since 1998 and rediscovered the location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

“On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site.”

“As our country’s premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country’s history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today’s announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site’s resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors.”

“NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service’s study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality.”

“As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country’s ‘best idea’ a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history.”

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai’i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama’s Designation of Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama’s designation of Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation’s complex history associated with civil rights,” said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National

Trust for Historic Preservation. “President Obama’s designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.”

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai’i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai’i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) NEW

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city’s Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown’s Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," **said Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The**

Wilderness Society. “They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

Outdoor Industry Association **NEW**

President's Announcement on "Every Kid in a Park" and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama's announcement today promoting the new "Every Kid in a Park" initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America's "best idea," our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America's youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president's call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind "Every Kid in a Park," including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

"We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it's what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative," said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. "We accept the president's challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children's interaction with the outdoors a national priority."

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country's newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual

contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative NEW

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every

Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest." - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

"We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives." - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

"Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America's public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards." - **Collin O'Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

"The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America's public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation's natural resources." - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

"The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!" - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

"Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls' understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them." - **Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

Twitter

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) NEW

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks an public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>

External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Pullman National Monument, IL..... 2
 Elected Officials 2
 External Stakeholders 3
 Twitter 8

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO 11
 Elected Officials 11
 External Stakeholders 13
 Twitter 23

Honouliuli National Monument, HI..... 35
 Elected Officials 35
 External Stakeholders 37
 Twitter 45

Every Kid in a Park 46
 External Stakeholders 46
 Twitter 50

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Robin Kelly (D-IL) **NEW**

Durbin, Kirk, Kelly Applaud President Obama's Announcement That Pullman Historical District Will Become Part Of The National Park System

[CHICAGO, IL] — U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) today applauded President Obama's announcement that a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District will be designated as a National Monument, making it a unit of the National Park System. Durbin, Kirk, and Kelly have worked to secure national park status for the architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

"The future of America's next great urban national landmark lies in the Pullman community's storied past. As an Illinoisan, I am proud to represent this community, which has come together to share its proud legacy of labor and civil rights. And as an American, I look forward to joining visitors from across the country in exploring a new monument to this critical chapter in our national history," **Durbin** said. "I thank Senator Kirk and Representative Kelly for being my partners in this effort, and congratulate the many members of this community who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this unique landmark."

"I fought for this designation with Senator Durbin and Rep. Kelly because regardless of party, it was the right thing to do for our state. As Chicago's first national monument, the Pullman District will bring thousands of tourists to Chicagoland every year, which will help to breathe new life into our local economies," **Kirk** said. "Today I am proud that America's first industrial town founded by George Pullman is receiving the recognition it deserves as a national monument."

"Pullman National Monument will be a crown jewel of the community, a remarkable achievement made possible only through the cooperation and collaboration of leaders from the public and private sectors

and the residents of the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, the history and legacy of Pullman will endure for generations to come and people from all over the country will be encouraged to visit and learn more about the vital role Pullman played in our nation's labor and civil rights history," said **Kelly**.

Under this announcement, the Pullman Historic District will become a national monument bounded by 103rd Street to the north, 115th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west, and the Norfolk & Western Rail Line to the east. Initially, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers national parks and monuments, will own the Pullman Factory Complex and the land on which it sits, with the option of acquiring additional property or assets should they be made available. Establishing Pullman as a part of the National Park System will allow for greater coordination of preservation and protection efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

In August, Durbin wrote President Obama urging him to use his authority to designate a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District as a unit of the National Park System. Earlier last year, Durbin, Kirk and Kelly introduced legislation to create the Pullman National Historical Park in the neighborhood's historical district, an architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

In 2014, the NPS released a study which found that Pullman was "conclusively nationally significant" as a historical site. More than 100 different organizations have endorsed the creation of a national park in Pullman, including city, county and state parks officials; preservationist groups; labor organizations; and tourism advocates. The creation of the national park site will increase jobs and boost Pullman's economy as a result of added tourism dollars: in 2012, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than 250,000 jobs. Studies show that every dollar invested in national park operations generates ten dollars of local economic activity.

The Pullman site was originally developed by industrialist George Pullman in 1880 and was the first American industrial town. The Pullman site served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States and played an important role in African American and early Civil Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman Porters as well as the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black union. Labor Day was established as a federal holiday following the 1894 Pullman labor strike. The neighborhood is also a well-preserved example of 19th century urban planning and architecture, especially the work of Solon Spencer Beman. The area has been designated as a registered National Historic Landmark District, an Illinois State Landmark, and a City of Chicago Landmark District.

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country’s history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O’ahu was Hawai’i’s largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that

some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat

for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument.
<http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/JklOX>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Natl Park Foundation NEW

So grateful to everyone who made it possible for #Pullman to become a #NationalPark! Pic: @ILhistory #TBT

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502670652264448>

Robin Kelly (IL-02) NEW

So proud to have the #Pullman Historic District become a National Monument! #IL02

<https://twitter.com/RepRobinKelly/status/568515620033003520>

Trust for Public Land NEW

"Together we can do great things that we can't do alone. That's why I am designating #Pullman as America's newest monument." - @BarackObama

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568506656650186752

Illinois History NEW

On big day for #Pullman, @ArgusBrewery releases "Monumental Lager." Details here: <http://ow.ly/Jl2jZ>
<http://ow.ly/i/8HWc9>

Pullman Foundation NEW

Congratulations to the #Pullman historic district of #Chicago on becoming a #nationalmonument!
<http://bit.ly/1AadcVV> It's OFFICIAL!

<https://twitter.com/pullmanfdn/status/568507207953883136>

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

External Stakeholders

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado’s Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

“Today’s comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This monument designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado’s bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won’t take action to protect these deserving public lands, then the president should.”

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was “outraged” by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. “It would promote tourism,” Lamborn said at the time. “There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks.”

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a “top-down, big-government land grab,” bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn’s predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, “the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape.”

3) Rep. Buck's comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck's inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

**Trout Unlimited
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation**

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

“I'm thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

“Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country,” said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. “It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come.”

“This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen,” said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. “Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of

elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama’s Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President’s action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The

rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing

opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

“Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County,” stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. “As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children.”

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon,” stated former U.S.

Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

###

Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what

we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America’s wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada’s Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

“My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by

offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing.”

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

“Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect.”

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans' reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

"I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years," said Reppenhagen. "Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price."

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

"For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That's why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon."

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

"The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future."

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

"We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It's a place that's meaningful to many people, and it's an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer."

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- **Outdoor Industry Association**

###

American Whitewater NEW

President Obama Designates Browns Canyon National Monument – Colorado

Salida, CO – On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect over 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado’s Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. American Whitewater and community leaders applaud the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument on Thursday.

“We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon”, said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. “If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress couldn’t”

Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Along with American Whitewater and our members, local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, and county commissioners. .

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded “Gold Medal” status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

The president is using his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Browns Canyon and two other new national monuments in Illinois and Hawaii this week. The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument, but

under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service and paddling will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

Today, after years of work, you can join us in thanking President Obama and Colorado's leaders, for Protecting Browns Canyon!

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>

###

The Conservation Alliance NEW

Introducing Browns Canyon National Monument

On February 19, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, CO. This proclamation preserves 22,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land in Colorado and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing, whitewater boating, hiking and many other outdoor activities. It is one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the country; attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually who contribute \$60 million to the local economy. The area provides critical habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain lions.

The Conservation Alliance funded two organizations working to protect Browns Canyon: Conservation Colorado and Conservation Lands Foundation. We funded Conservation Colorado in 2006 for their effort to designate Browns Canyon as wilderness. After more than fifteen years of attempts to protect Browns Canyon via legislation, the strategy shifted to a national monument campaign. Conservation Lands Foundation, a 2014 grantee, worked with the Obama Administration to bring this national monument campaign across the finish line.

Senator Mark Udall introduced legislation last year to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument, but Congress failed to move the bill. Udall's legislation specified that paddling on the Arkansas would continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation, which followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

The Conservation Alliance applauds President Obama for designating the Browns Canyon National Monument. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support. We thank President Obama for recognizing this special place, and protecting Browns Canyon forever.

100% of our membership dues support conservation opportunities like Browns Canyon. Together, we are making a measurable impact toward protecting threatened wild places in North America.

<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>

###

HECHO NEW

Public Process Leads to Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

HECHO joins many grateful organizations and communities in thanking President Obama for taking action to designate Browns Canyon as the newest National Monument in Colorado.

Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying the Browns Canyon area for generations. For too long, we have witnessed extractive industries such as oil, gas, and mineral development, as well as urban growth, mar the landscapes, pollute watersheds and affect the wildlife that have sustained us for generations.

The lands and waters in Browns Canyon are part of our heritage and are as treasured to us as are the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and other areas throughout the West. Its permanent protection will be a great addition to our National Monument system and will be a place that we can continue to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. As in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, traditional uses will continue and will remain part of the fabric of our culture and traditions.

This designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act is especially fulfilling for the communities that have been engaged in the extensive public input process involving diverse stakeholders such as local businesses and communities, sportsmen, faith communities, youth groups, and elected officials. Although bipartisan legislative attempts to add greater protections to the area had been unsuccessful, strong and consistent public support in partnership with the President's executive action has resulted in greater protection for the region, which is valued for its wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River.

"It was exciting to see that the final public hearing drew hundreds of people, including a large number of Latinos from Denver," said Rod Torrez of HECHO. Browns Canyon is within easy reach of large communities along the Front Range, and as a national monument, will provide continued access for outdoor recreation, as well as protect the natural surroundings that we all enjoy.

<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>

###

Small Business Majority NEW

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he'll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority's opinion polling found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What's more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America's parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president's designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>

###

Trout Unlimited NEW

Trout Unlimited praises creation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Calls monument designation 'historic victory' for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Trout Unlimited today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and other recreational users.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Trout Unlimited leaders called the monument action a "historic victory" for public lands conservation.

"TU members are proud to have played a leading role in protecting this Colorado crown jewel and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations," said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. "This is a big bipartisan win for our outdoors heritage, and it sends a strong and clear message that hunters and anglers want to keep our public lands public."

"I'm thrilled," said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. "Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy."

For years, sportsmen's groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon, which includes prime backcountry habitat for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as miles of outstanding Gold Medal wild trout waters in the Arkansas River.

TU and other sportsmen's groups, including the National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, organized local anglers and hunters to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown's important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado's \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado's \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

"Sportsmen helped deliver this victory for Browns," said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. "Our local roots and deep knowledge of this place carried weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we're committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life."

He added, "We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation."

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>

###

Twitter

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Conservation Alliance NEW

Thank you @whitehouse for designating Browns Canyon National Monument! #BrownsCanyon #monumentsmatter

<https://twitter.com/conservationall/status/568497440166453250>

Rep Ed Perlmutter NEW

Glad to see #BrownsCanyon become a #NationalMonument today. TY @MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO & @hickforco for your work

<https://twitter.com/RepPerlmutter/status/568483502930464769>

Jamie Williams TWS NEW

Check out stunning photos of #BrownsCanyon @Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/1ALFhVL> Thank you @BarackObama for making this place a Monument!

<https://twitter.com/JWilliamsTWS/status/568457816412987392>

NM Green Chamber NEW

Thanks @WhiteHouse @forestservice @BLMNational for recognizing the importance of #BrownsCanyon for future generations! #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568546007333474304>

ConserveNM NEW

.@BarackObama announcing #Pullman, #Honouliuli & #BrownsCanyon Nat'l. Monuments. #MonumentsForAll #Inspiring #History

<https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status/568506630427377664>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

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Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President’s executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

###

Governor David Ige NEW

"President Obama's action ensures that generations to come will be able to visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp and learn about the experiences of persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to stay there during the war. The monument will remind all who visit of the terrible injustice these families endured, even while many of their husbands, sons and brothers were fighting for the United States."

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell NEW

"The preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument is a proud moment for Honolulu, but also a bittersweet one. World War II internment camps are a dark segment of our nation's history, and the Honouliuli camp still holds memories for Honolulu residents during wartime, life in the camp, and the courage and bravery that internees displayed even as their loyalty to our country was being challenged. It is an important part of history that should always be remembered and learned from, and I want to thank the President for making this possible. As a National Monument, Honouliuli's significance will be forever honored."

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation**

Lands Foundation. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country’s history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O’ahu was Hawai’i’s largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation.** “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O’ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai’i. Built on 160 acres in west O’ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or “hell

valley.” Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O’ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai’i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai’i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai’i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

“As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations,” said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i.**

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai’i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai’i’s congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

***The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i (JCCH)** is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai’i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai’i since 1998 and rediscovered the location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.*

***The Japanese American Citizens League** is the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JAACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.*

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League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

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National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

"On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site."

"As our country's premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country's history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today's announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site's resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors."

"NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service's study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality."

"As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country's 'best idea' a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history."

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai'i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was

one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama’s Designation of Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama’s designation of Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation’s complex history associated with civil rights,” said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “President Obama’s designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.”

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai’i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai’i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

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Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city’s Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii’s Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

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Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — to protect many of America's most treasured

places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Matt Lee-Ashley (CAP) NEW

MT @paulsparrow1 #WWII Internment camp in #Hawaii to become national monument. #Honouliuli
#MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/MLeeAshley/status/568057959680491520>

NM Green Chamber NEW

Mahalo #POTUS and @SecretaryJewell for protecting #Honouliuli Internment Site as unit of the
@natlparkservice. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568543970382315520>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

Outdoor Industry Association

President’s Announcement on “Every Kid in a Park” and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama’s announcement today promoting the new “Every Kid in a Park” initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America’s “best idea,” our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America’s youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president’s call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind “Every Kid in a Park,” including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

“We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it’s what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative,” said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. “We accept the president’s challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children’s interaction with the outdoors a national priority.”

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country’s newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual

contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every

Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest." - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

"We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives." - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

"Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America's public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards." - **Collin O'Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

"The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America's public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation's natural resources." - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

"The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!" - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

"Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls' understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them." - **Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

National Wildlife Foundation **NEW**

Collin O'Mara in response to President Obama's announcement of a new goal to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or refuge:

"We can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

Boy at OverlookThe National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliated organizations enthusiastically support the goal put forth by President Obama today to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or wildlife refuge in the coming year. Our public lands are an important part of the American story and children receive immense benefit from learning about and directly experiencing nature, wildlife, the outdoors and public land areas.

The need for such a goal has never been higher as America's children now spend so much of their time staying indoors staring at the screens of electronic devices, watching television and playing electronic games. Research shows that the average child today spends a daily eight hours connected to such devices and spends a small fraction of their time engaged in outdoor play and nature study. This results in a lost affinity for nature, our public lands and this unique aspect of American heritage.

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America's parents, educators and child care providers to give America's 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges," says Collin O'Mara, NWF's President and CEO, "we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation provides programming to one third of all of America's 4th graders through its Ranger Rick publications, its Eco Schools USA and Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats, parent education programs and partnerships with park and wildlife agencies—all of which will directly support the President's new goal.

The National Wildlife Federation working with its partner organizations, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Recreation Coalition, the Federal Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), and our 49 state and territorial affiliates has developed nature and outdoor programs that offer 5 million children opportunities for weekly and daily nature play. Having this new presidential goal of planning for every fourth grader in America to visit a public land park, forest or refuge will support and expand on our success in reconnecting kids and families with nature and will help children at an impressionable age to actually experience some of our most beautiful and compelling natural and scenic places.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Get-Outside/2015/02-19-15-Collin-OMara-in-response-to-President-announcement-to-have-every-4th-grader-in-America.aspx>

###

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation NEW

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell said. "Nature is the best teacher, and our parks provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children." – WaPo Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

HECHO NEW

Teaching Kids & Getting Them Outdoors: It's Part of Our Heritage

The following post by Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) comes at a timely moment. Today President Obama announces the "Every Kid in a Park Initiative," which aims to bring every child in the nation into the parks and public lands. It includes free admission for one full year for all fourth grade kids and their families into the National Parks. HECHO supports this initiative! (Click on the link to read the blog post)

<http://www.hechoonline.com/teaching-kids-getting-them-outdoors-its-part-of-our-heritage/>

Twitter

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks and public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>

Outdoor Industry NEW

BREAKING: @BarackObama to announce free entrance to US public lands for 1 year for all 4th graders! #EveryKidinaPark

<https://twitter.com/OIA/status/568428622790262784>

Tommy Caldwell (Athlete)NEW

Today the President announced the initiative "Every Kid in a Park". My wife and I are passionate about getting... <http://fb.me/1zBTzCqO9>

<https://twitter.com/tommycaldwell1/status/568515545521197056>

Patagonia NEW

We agree with the @OIA - The Every Kid in a Park Initiative is good news. Read on:

<http://pat.ag/17hHKtE>

<https://twitter.com/patagonia/status/568501553767657472>

Trust for Public Land NEW

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA NEW

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>

Conrad Anker (Athlete) NEW

Yeah ~ President [Barack Obama](#). Thanks for recognizing the importance of our wild heritage and the benefit it has to our nation. Free access for a year to public lands for all 4th graders will get the future leaders off the digital rabbit warren and into the wild. [#everykidinapark](#) Add on Browns Canyon and today is a great day for the outdoor community. Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conrad-Anker/143199022383600?sk=info&tab=page_info

Kevin Jorgeson (Professional Climber) NEW

How cool! @BarackObama announces year of free admission to all Ntl Parks for 4th graders, plus new ntl monuments: <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/kjorgeson/status/568518926037954561>

Range of Light NEW

Thanks to President @BarackObama for your leadership in making this happen!
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/> ... #EveryKidinaPark @WhiteHouse #leadership

<https://twitter.com/rangeoflight/status/568511802432053248>

Latino Outdoors NEW

"Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments | The White House" <http://wh.gov/ibeLg> @whitehouse

<https://twitter.com/LatinoOutdoors/status/568512483117305858>

Outdoor Afro NEW

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/568478382540898304>

Girl Scouts NEW

Thank you @BarackObama for ensuring kids across America can visit a park! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark!
=> <http://wp.me/p3qC97-i6>

<https://twitter.com/girlscouts/status/568468631367094273>

Collin O'Mara (NWF) NEW

Today's a great day to be a 4th grader! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark ! <http://owl.li/Jlmis> Thank you @BarackObama #FindYourPark

https://twitter.com/Collin_OMara/status/568511612438446080

LCV NEW

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568506626648502272>

National Park Trust NEW

Shout out to @BarackObama for #EveryKidInAPark initiative! Tell us what you're doing on 5/16 for #KidstoParks Day! <http://ow.ly/Jlcaf>

<https://twitter.com/NatParkTrust/status/568504259467206656>

Natl Park Foundation NEW

.@BarackObama just announced #EveryKidInAPark! Find out how you can take part at <http://prks.org/KidsInParks> !

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502164345237504>

External Statements – Update – 02/19/15 (PM)

Pullman National Monument, IL

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Robin Kelly (D-IL) **NEW**

Durbin, Kirk, Kelly Applaud President Obama's Announcement That Pullman Historical District Will Become Part Of The National Park System

[CHICAGO, IL] — U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) today applauded President Obama's announcement that a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District will be designated as a National Monument, making it a unit of the National Park System. Durbin, Kirk, and Kelly have worked to secure national park status for the architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

"The future of America's next great urban national landmark lies in the Pullman community's storied past. As an Illinoisan, I am proud to represent this community, which has come together to share its proud legacy of labor and civil rights. And as an American, I look forward to joining visitors from across the country in exploring a new monument to this critical chapter in our national history," **Durbin** said. "I thank Senator Kirk and Representative Kelly for being my partners in this effort, and congratulate the many members of this community who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this unique landmark."

"I fought for this designation with Senator Durbin and Rep. Kelly because regardless of party, it was the right thing to do for our state. As Chicago's first national monument, the Pullman District will bring thousands of tourists to Chicagoland every year, which will help to breathe new life into our local economies," **Kirk** said. "Today I am proud that America's first industrial town founded by George Pullman is receiving the recognition it deserves as a national monument."

"Pullman National Monument will be a crown jewel of the community, a remarkable achievement made possible only through the cooperation and collaboration of leaders from the public and private sectors and the residents of the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, the history and legacy of Pullman will endure for generations to come and people from all over the country will be encouraged to visit and learn more about the vital role Pullman played in our nation's labor and civil rights history," said **Kelly**.

Under this announcement, the Pullman Historic District will become a national monument bounded by 103rd Street to the north, 115th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west, and the Norfolk & Western Rail Line to the east. Initially, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers national parks and monuments, will own the Pullman Factory Complex and the land on which it sits, with the option of acquiring additional property or assets should they be made available. Establishing Pullman as a part of the National Park System will allow for greater coordination of preservation and protection efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

In August, Durbin wrote President Obama urging him to use his authority to designate a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District as a unit of the National Park System. Earlier last year, Durbin, Kirk and Kelly introduced legislation to create the Pullman National Historical Park in the neighborhood's historical district, an architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

In 2014, the NPS released a study which found that Pullman was "conclusively nationally significant" as a historical site. More than 100 different organizations have endorsed the creation of a national park in Pullman, including city, county and state parks officials; preservationist groups; labor organizations; and tourism advocates. The creation of the national park site will increase jobs and boost Pullman's economy as a result of added tourism dollars: in 2012, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than 250,000 jobs. Studies show that every dollar invested in national park operations generates ten dollars of local economic activity.

The Pullman site was originally developed by industrialist George Pullman in 1880 and was the first American industrial town. The Pullman site served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States and played an important role in African American and early Civil Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman Porters as well as the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black union. Labor Day was established as a federal holiday following the 1894 Pullman labor strike. The neighborhood is also a well-preserved example of 19th century urban planning and architecture, especially the work of Solon Spencer Beman. The area has been designated as a registered National Historic Landmark District, an Illinois State Landmark, and a City of Chicago Landmark District.

###

Twitter

Natl Park Foundation NEW

So grateful to everyone who made it possible for #Pullman to become a #NationalPark! Pic: @ILhistory #TBT

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502670652264448>

Robin Kelly (IL-02) NEW

So proud to have the #Pullman Historic District become a National Monument! #IL02

<https://twitter.com/RepRobinKelly/status/568515620033003520>

Trust for Public Land NEW

"Together we can do great things that we can't do alone. That's why I am designating #Pullman as America's newest monument." - @BarackObama

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568506656650186752

Illinois History NEW

On big day for #Pullman, @ArgusBrewery releases "Monumental Lager." Details here: <http://ow.ly/Jl2jZ>
<http://ow.ly/i/8HWc9>

Pullman Foundation NEW

Congratulations to the #Pullman historic district of #Chicago on becoming a #nationalmonument!
<http://bit.ly/1AadcVV> It's OFFICIAL!

<https://twitter.com/pullmanfdn/status/568507207953883136>

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

External Stakeholders

American Whitewater NEW

President Obama Designates Browns Canyon National Monument – Colorado

Salida, CO – On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect over 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado's Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. American Whitewater and community leaders applaud the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument on Thursday.

"We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon", said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. "If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress couldn't"

Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Along with American Whitewater and our members, local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, and county commissioners. .

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

The president is using his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Browns Canyon and two other new national monuments in Illinois and Hawaii this week. The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument, but

under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service and paddling will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

Today, after years of work, you can join us in thanking President Obama and Colorado's leaders, for Protecting Browns Canyon!

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>

###

The Conservation Alliance NEW

Introducing Browns Canyon National Monument

On February 19, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, CO. This proclamation preserves 22,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land in Colorado and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing, whitewater boating, hiking and many other outdoor activities. It is one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the country; attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually who contribute \$60 million to the local economy. The area provides critical habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain lions.

The Conservation Alliance funded two organizations working to protect Browns Canyon: Conservation Colorado and Conservation Lands Foundation. We funded Conservation Colorado in 2006 for their effort to designate Browns Canyon as wilderness. After more than fifteen years of attempts to protect Browns Canyon via legislation, the strategy shifted to a national monument campaign. Conservation Lands Foundation, a 2014 grantee, worked with the Obama Administration to bring this national monument campaign across the finish line.

Senator Mark Udall introduced legislation last year to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument, but Congress failed to move the bill. Udall's legislation specified that paddling on the Arkansas would continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation, which followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

The Conservation Alliance applauds President Obama for designating the Browns Canyon National Monument. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support. We thank President Obama for recognizing this special place, and protecting Browns Canyon forever.

100% of our membership dues support conservation opportunities like Browns Canyon. Together, we are making a measurable impact toward protecting threatened wild places in North America.

<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>

###

HECHO NEW

Public Process Leads to Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

HECHO joins many grateful organizations and communities in thanking President Obama for taking action to designate Browns Canyon as the newest National Monument in Colorado.

Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying the Browns Canyon area for generations. For too long, we have witnessed extractive industries such as oil, gas, and mineral development, as well as urban growth, mar the landscapes, pollute watersheds and affect the wildlife that have sustained us for generations.

The lands and waters in Browns Canyon are part of our heritage and are as treasured to us as are the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and other areas throughout the West. Its permanent protection will be a great addition to our National Monument system and will be a place that we can continue to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. As in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, traditional uses will continue and will remain part of the fabric of our culture and traditions.

This designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act is especially fulfilling for the communities that have been engaged in the extensive public input process involving diverse stakeholders such as local businesses and communities, sportsmen, faith communities, youth groups, and elected officials. Although bipartisan legislative attempts to add greater protections to the area had been unsuccessful, strong and consistent public support in partnership with the President's executive action has resulted in greater protection for the region, which is valued for its wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River.

"It was exciting to see that the final public hearing drew hundreds of people, including a large number of Latinos from Denver," said Rod Torrez of HECHO. Browns Canyon is within easy reach of large communities along the Front Range, and as a national monument, will provide continued access for outdoor recreation, as well as protect the natural surroundings that we all enjoy.

<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>

###

Small Business Majority NEW

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he'll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority's opinion polling found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What's more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America's parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president's designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>

###

Trout Unlimited NEW

Trout Unlimited praises creation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Calls monument designation 'historic victory' for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Trout Unlimited today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and other recreational users.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Trout Unlimited leaders called the monument action a "historic victory" for public lands conservation.

"TU members are proud to have played a leading role in protecting this Colorado crown jewel and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations," said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. "This is a big bipartisan win for our outdoors heritage, and it sends a strong and clear message that hunters and anglers want to keep our public lands public."

“I’m thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns’ wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon, which includes prime backcountry habitat for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as miles of outstanding Gold Medal wild trout waters in the Arkansas River.

TU and other sportsmen’s groups, including the National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, organized local anglers and hunters to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of this place carried weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>

###

Twitter

Conservation Alliance NEW

Thank you @whitehouse for designating Browns Canyon National Monument! #BrownsCanyon #monumentsmatter

<https://twitter.com/conservationall/status/568497440166453250>

Rep Ed Perlmutter NEW

Glad to see #BrownsCanyon become a #NationalMonument today. TY @MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO & @hickforco for your work

<https://twitter.com/RepPerlmutter/status/568483502930464769>

Jamie Williams TWS NEW

Check out stunning photos of #BrownsCanyon @Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/1ALFhVL> Thank you @BarackObama for making this place a Monument!

<https://twitter.com/JWilliamsTWS/status/568457816412987392>

NM Green Chamber NEW

Thanks @WhiteHouse @forestsservice @BLMNational for recognizing the importance of #BrownsCanyon for future generations! #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568546007333474304>

ConserveNM NEW

.@BarackObama announcing #Pullman, #Honouliuli & #BrownsCanyon Nat'l. Monuments. #MonumentsForAll #Inspiring #History

<https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status/568506630427377664>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Governor David Ige NEW

“President Obama’s action ensures that generations to come will be able to visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp and learn about the experiences of persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to stay there during the war. The monument will remind all who visit of the terrible injustice these families endured, even while many of their husbands, sons and brothers were fighting for the United States.”

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell NEW

“The preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument is a proud moment for Honolulu, but also a bittersweet one. World War II internment camps are a dark segment of our nation’s history, and the Honouliuli camp still holds memories for Honolulu residents during wartime, life in the camp, and the courage and bravery that internees displayed even as their loyalty to our country was being challenged. It is an important part of history that should always be remembered and learned from, and I want to thank the President for making this possible. As a National Monument, Honouliuli’s significance will be forever honored.”

###

Twitter

Matt Lee-Ashley (CAP) NEW

MT @paulsparrow1 #WWII Internment camp in #Hawaii to become national monument. #Honouliuli #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/MLeeAshley/status/568057959680491520>

NM Green Chamber NEW

Mahalo #POTUS and @SecretaryJewell for protecting #Honouliuli Internment Site as unit of the @natlparkservice. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568543970382315520>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

National Wildlife Foundation NEW

Collin O'Mara in response to President Obama's announcement of a new goal to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or refuge:

"We can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

Boy at OverlookThe National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliated organizations enthusiastically support the goal put forth by President Obama today to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or wildlife refuge in the coming year. Our public lands are an important part of the American story and children receive immense benefit from learning about and directly experiencing nature, wildlife, the outdoors and public land areas.

The need for such a goal has never been higher as America's children now spend so much of their time staying indoors staring at the screens of electronic devices, watching television and playing electronic games. Research shows that the average child today spends a daily eight hours connected to such devices and spends a small fraction of their time engaged in outdoor play and nature study. This results in a lost affinity for nature, our public lands and this unique aspect of American heritage.

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America's parents, educators and child care providers to give America's 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges," says Collin O'Mara, NWF's President and CEO, "we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation provides programming to one third of all of America's 4th graders through its Ranger Rick publications, its Eco Schools USA and Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats, parent education programs and partnerships with park and wildlife agencies—all of which will directly support the President's new goal.

The National Wildlife Federation working with its partner organizations, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Recreation Coalition, the Federal Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), and our 49 state and territorial affiliates has developed nature and outdoor programs that offer 5 million children opportunities for weekly and daily nature play. Having this new presidential goal of planning for every fourth grader in America to visit a public land park, forest or refuge will support and expand on our success in reconnecting kids and families with nature and will help children at an impressionable age to actually experience some of our most beautiful and compelling natural and scenic places.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Get-Outside/2015/02-19-15-Collin-OMara-in-response-to-President-announcement-to-have-every-4th-grader-in-America.aspx>

###

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation NEW

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell said. "Nature is the best teacher, and our parks provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children." – WaPo Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

HECHO NEW

Teaching Kids & Getting Them Outdoors: It's Part of Our Heritage

The following post by Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) comes at a timely moment. Today President Obama announces the "Every Kid in a Park Initiative," which aims to bring every child in the nation into the parks and public lands. It includes free admission for one full year for all fourth grade kids and their families into the National Parks. HECHO supports this initiative! (Click on the clink to read the blog post)

<http://www.hechoonline.com/teaching-kids-getting-them-outdoors-its-part-of-our-heritage/>

Twitter

Outdoor Industry NEW

BREAKING: @BarackObama to announce free entrance to US public lands for 1 year for all 4th graders!
#EveryKidinaPark

<https://twitter.com/OIA/status/568428622790262784>

Tommy Caldwell (Athlete)NEW

Today the President announced the initiative "Every Kid in a Park". My wife and I are passionate about getting... <http://fb.me/1zBTzCqO9>

<https://twitter.com/tommycaldwell1/status/568515545521197056>

Patagonia NEW

We agree with the @OIA - The Every Kid in a Park Initiative is good news. Read on:

<http://pat.ag/17hHKtE>

<https://twitter.com/patagonia/status/568501553767657472>

Trust for Public Land NEW

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA NEW

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>

Conrad Anker (Athlete) NEW

Yeah ~ President [Barack Obama](#). Thanks for recognizing the importance of our wild heritage and the benefit it has to our nation. Free access for a year to public lands for all 4th graders will get the future leaders off the digital rabbit warren and into the wild. [#everykidinapark](#) Add on Browns Canyon and today is a great day for the outdoor community. Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conrad-Anker/143199022383600?sk=info&tab=page_info

Kevin Jorgeson (Professional Climber) NEW

How cool! @BarackObama announces year of free admission to all Ntl Parks for 4th graders, plus new ntl monuments: <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/kjorgeson/status/568518926037954561>

Range of Light NEW

Thanks to President @BarackObama for your leadership in making this happen!

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/> ... #EveryKidinaPark @WhiteHouse #leadership

<https://twitter.com/rangeoflight/status/568511802432053248>

Latino Outdoors NEW

"Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments | The White House" <http://wh.gov/ibeLg> @whitehouse

<https://twitter.com/LatinoOutdoors/status/568512483117305858>

Outdoor Afro NEW

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/568478382540898304>

Girl Scouts NEW

Thank you @BarackObama for ensuring kids across America can visit a park! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark!
=> <http://wp.me/p3qC97-i6>

<https://twitter.com/girlscouts/status/568468631367094273>

Collin O'Mara (NWF) NEW

Today's a great day to be a 4th grader! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark ! <http://owl.li/Jlmis> Thank you @BarackObama #FindYourPark

https://twitter.com/Collin_OMara/status/568511612438446080

LCV NEW

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568506626648502272>

National Park Trust NEW

Shout out to @BarackObama for #EveryKidInAPark initiative! Tell us what you're doing on 5/16 for #KidstoParks Day! <http://ow.ly/Jlcaf>

<https://twitter.com/NatParkTrust/status/568504259467206656>

Natl Park Foundation NEW

.@BarackObama just announced #EveryKidInAPark! Find out how you can take part at <http://prks.org/KidsInParks> !

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502164345237504>



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, February 20, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 7:03 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + President Obama Dedicates National Monument, Heaps Praise On Emanuel In Visit To Chicago.
- + White House Report Highlights Benefits Of Energy Boom.
- + Bill To Prevent Sale Of Federal Land In Montana Tabled.
- + Photos From Interior's Instagram Feed Highlighted.
- + Additional Coverage Of Recent Arctic Decisions.
- + Additional Coverage: Interior Offers \$8 Million For American Indian Climate Adaptation.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:

- + Ford's Theatre Museum Closed For Second Day After Water Leak.
- + NPS, Project Promise Teach Sixth Graders About Salt River Bay.
- + Land Owner Closes Off Access To Anniversary Narrows Near Lake Mead.
- + NPS Plans Gates Of The Arctic Comment Period.
- + Seven South Dakota Sites Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- + Additional Coverage: NPS Maps Noise Levels Throughout US.

Bureau of Land Management:

- + Mesquite City Council Pulls Item Because Of "Security Issue" Involving BLM Presentation.
- + BLM Plans Wild Horse Roundup.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS Reinstates Protections For Gray Wolf.
- + Additional Coverage: Oregon Chub Taken Off Endangered List.
- + Additional Coverage: FWS Launches Effort To Save Monarch Butterflies.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS Report Find Central Valley Leads Nation In Falling Groundwater Levels.
- + USGS Urges Greater Transparency, Data Sharing On Quakes Linked To Oil, Gas Production.
- + New Director Of North American Nitrogen Center Named.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + OSMRE Developing Blasting Regulations.
- + BLM Criticized For NPR-A Decision.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Opposition Grows Against Offshore Oil, Natural Gas Exploration.
- + BSEE Officials To Deliver Keynote Address At Major Decommissioning Summit.

- + [Environmental Group Sues To Stop California Offshore Fracking Permits.](#)
- + [Barbier Denies BP Request To Cap Fine For Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.](#)
- + [Gulf Beach Soil Microbes Changed Following Oil Spill.](#)
- + [Whistleblowers Want Revival Of \\$266 Billion BP Suit.](#)
- + [Alaska Urged To Ensure Equitable Sharing Of Offshore Oil And Gas Revenue.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [California Water Resources Control Board Director Advises Against Pumping More Delta Water.](#)
- + [Farmers Optimistic About Lewis And Clark Project.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [Six Virginia Tribes Seek Federal Recognition Through Act Of Congress.](#)
- + [Shawnee Tribe Announces Plan For New Casino.](#)
- + [Law Professor Makes Case For Kenosha Casino.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [Obama Rhetoric On Terrorism Threat Continues To Generate Debate.](#)
- + [Shortages Due To Port Labor Problem Beginning To Be Felt.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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:

PRESIDENT OBAMA DEDICATES NATIONAL MONUMENT, HEAPS PRAISE ON EMANUEL IN VISIT TO CHICAGO. President Obama's visit to Chicago – where he [declared](#) the Pullman Historic District a national monument and appeared with Mayor Rahm Emanuel – generated just a 25-second mention on one network newscast, [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/19, story 12, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M). Print media reports highlighted the President's praise for his former chief of staff, with the [AP](#) (2/19, Lederman) reporting that "you'd be forgiven for mistaking the visit for a campaign event for...Emanuel." The coverage also cast Obama as snubbing Gov. Bruce Rauner, and generally described the Chicago monument designation as an opportunity for Obama to "pointedly" pay "tribute to the labor movement" as well as to its role in the civil rights struggle of African Americans, as the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/20, Schlikeman, 1.11M) puts it.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, Ruthhart, Pearson, 2.42M) notes "the struggles in the Pullman district played a key role in the creation of the first African-American labor union certified by the American Federation of Labor – the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters." [Politico](#) (2/19, Gass, 683K) quoted Obama as saying yesterday, "Going forward, it's going to be a monument to a painful part of our history so that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past." [The Hill](#) (2/19, Cama, 224K) reported that Obama also described the site as "the heart of what would become America's labor movement. And as a consequence," also "the heart of what would become America's middle class." In his remarks, the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports, Obama "noted that Michelle Obama's great-grandfather was a Pullman porter."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/20, Schlikeman, 1.11M) notes the President said of Emanuel – who introduced him at the monument designation – that "everybody knows" he "is passionate and he is tough and he is dogged in making sure that the city of Chicago is not just the coldest city – but also the greatest city. ... And you look at what's been accomplished in education, what's been accomplished in terms of the infrastructure, bringing jobs back to this city – I have confidence as a voter and as a resident of Chicago that he's going to continue to do a great job. ...I'm glad he's my mayor and I'm glad he's going to be my mayor for another four years." The [AP](#)

(2/19, Lederman) reports that White House spokesman Eric Schultz “disputed the notion that the monument designation was a partisan move,” arguing that “Obama felt Emanuel had been ‘a very strong mayor for this city’ and has remained close to the president.” [Reuters](#) (2/19, Edwards) also reports that Schultz said the trip was not scheduled to coincide with the campaign.

Obama Also Dedicates Monuments In Colorado, Hawaii. The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Sullivan, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that yesterday, the President also “dedicated the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, which he called an ‘outdoor paradise,’ as well as the Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, where Japanese Americans were held prisoner during World War II.” The [New York Times](#) (2/19, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that also yesterday, Obama “introduced a new program to allow fourth graders and their families to visit national parks free of charge for the next year.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/20, 169K) quotes Obama as saying, “The country’s most special places should belong not just to the rich and powerful.”

The [EIN News](#) (2/20, 1K) reports that “Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today joined members of Congress, local elected officials, and conservation partners from the Upper Arkansas River Valley in applauding the President’s designation of Browns Canyon National Monument.” Jewell said, “Today’s designation follows a decade of work by the local community to protect this spectacular area. Browns Canyon is a major economic driver for Colorado, drawing tourists and adventure-seekers from near and far. The President’s action will ensure that remains the case for generations to come.”

Republicans Seek To Limit Monument Designations. The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/20, 315K) reports that “while the Obama administration celebrated naming three new national monuments on Thursday, the Republican-led Congress signaled it could move to limit the president’s authority to designate large swaths of land unilaterally under the 1906 Antiquities Act.” The article notes that “many people have endorsed the monument designations, saying the move provides needed protection to some of the nation’s pristine landscapes, culturally important places and threatened animal and plant habitats.” However, “many Republicans believe Obama’s frequent designations constitute a federal land grab executed without local input.”

The [AP](#) (2/20) reports “some Republicans have complained that Obama has abused his authority” to designate national monuments, and yesterday they “renewed their complaints over the newest designations, especially the Colorado site, the largest in size by far among the three new monuments.” Rep. Ken Busk said the President “should ‘cut it out,’” adding, “He is not king. No more acting like King Barack.” Rep. Doug Lamborn called the move a “top-down, big-government land grab by the president that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region.” However, “outdoors and wildlife groups applauded” it.

President Obama Launches “Every Kid In A Park” Initiative. The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that “Obama is launching an “Every Kid in a Park” initiative Thursday, White House officials said, an effort that aims to get every fourth-grader to visit a national park in the years ahead.” The new campaign “will offer all fourth-grade students and their families with free admission to national parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year.” The article notes that “in concert with the National Park Service’s centennial in 2016, the administration is seeking to expand young people’s participation in the system.”

Also providing coverage are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/20, 405K), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Detroit Free Press](#) (2/19, 987K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/19, 1.14M), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 584K), the [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/20, 1K), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (2/20, 988K), [MSNBC](#) (2/20, 9.31M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/19, 380K), the [International Business Times](#) (2/20, 1.19M), [Forbes](#) (2/19, 6.54M), [USA Today](#) (2/19, 10.32M), [ABC Otus News](#) (2/20), and the [Treehugger](#) (2/20, 24K).

The [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (2/20, 133K) editorializes that “the federal government should not pay” for the Every Kid in a Park initiative. It says that “getting urban and low-income kids out to experience America’s natural wonders is a great thing, which the federal government has no business funding.”

Commentary. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M) editorializes that “the people who deserve the most credit for Pullman’s long-sought federal designation were in the audience Thursday, not behind a lectern.” According to the paper, “the eclectic residents of Pullman — the entrepreneurs, the artists, the shopkeepers, the writers, the carpenters — made this day happen.” The editorial says that “their love of community expressed through decades of lobbying, pleading and working through crushing bureaucracy finally paid off.”

In his column for the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), Blair Kamin writes that Pullman’s future “may be brighter than you think.” He also notes that “the Park Service’s involvement should further boost Pullman’s revival.”

Additional Coverage. Also providing coverage are [CNN](#) (2/18, 14.35M), [ABC Otus News](#) (2/20, 3.41M), [USA Today](#) (2/19, 10.32M), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/19, Sheppard, 281K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/19, 644K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (2/20, Boyer, 644K), [The Hill](#) (2/20, Barron-Lopez, 224K), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/20, 169K), [Reuters](#) (2/19), [USA Today](#) (2/20, Madhani, 10.32M), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/20, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/18, 2.42M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (2/19, 2.42M), the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/20, Schlikeman, 1.11M), the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (2/20, 283K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/20, 9K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/20, 9K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (2/20, Lederman, Daly, 804K), the [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (2/19), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/20, 405K), the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (2/20, 637K), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 584K), the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (2/20, 60K), the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (2/20, 889K), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/19, 584K), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/19), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (2/20, Lederman, 2.28M), the [Denver Post](#) (2/20, 804K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (2/20, 140K), the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (2/20, 9K), the [Asahi Shimbun \(JAP\)](#) (2/20, 33K), the [Examiner](#) (2/20, 1.01M), [Reuters \(IND\)](#) (2/18, 22K), [Yahoo! News](#) (2/20, 5.81M), [WBBM-TV Chicago](#) (2/19, 127K), [KCNC-TV Denver](#) (2/18, 102K), [KWGN-TV Denver](#) (2/19, 3K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (2/20, 1.07M), [WFLD-TV Chicago \(IL\) Chicago](#) (2/20, 159K), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit](#) (2/20, 219K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\) Salt Lake City](#) (2/20, 1.07M), [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\) Cheyenne, WY](#) (2/20, 519), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\) Washington](#) (2/20, 613K), and [WJBK-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit](#) (2/20, 253K).

WHITE HOUSE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS BENEFITS OF ENERGY BOOM. [The Hill](#) (2/19, Cama, 224K) reports that a boost in renewable energy usage and an increase in oil and gas production means the US “economy is stronger, greenhouse gases are down and security is better, the White House said Thursday.” A report on the economy by the White House’s Council of Economic Advisers determined that “those are some of the benefits” of the recent “energy boom.” [The Hill](#) added, “And while lower oil and natural gas prices — caused largely by increased domestic production — could boost consumption, the White House concluded that the price drops are not going to harm its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” The report stated, “On balance, the energy revolution lays the foundation for U.S. leadership in global efforts to address climate change and paves the way toward a low-carbon energy future.”

BILL TO PREVENT SALE OF FEDERAL LAND IN MONTANA TABLED. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (2/20, Kuglin, 38K) reports that a bill “to prevent the federal government from selling public lands in Montana” failed in the Montana state Senate and was ultimately tabled. Joe Balyeat, Montana state director for Americans for Prosperity, supported the bill, saying, “This debate is about local state control rather than Washington, D.C. control.”

PHOTOS FROM INTERIOR’S INSTAGRAM FEED HIGHLIGHTED. The [Public Radio International](#) (2/19, 3K) highlights “the 20 most popular images from the US Interior Department’s wonderful Instagram feed, which updates daily.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RECENT ARCTIC DECISIONS. Additional coverage of the recent Arctic decision was provided by the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/20, 14K), the [Alaska Native News](#) (2/20, 245), [The Inquisitr](#) (2/20, 753K), and [The Hill](#) (2/20, Barron-Lopez, 224K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR OFFERS \$8 MILLION FOR AMERICAN INDIAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION. Additional coverage that the Interior Department is offering \$8 million to Alaskan Native American communities to encourage climate resilience was provided by the [Grist](#) (2/20, 9K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FORD’S THEATRE MUSEUM CLOSED FOR SECOND DAY AFTER WATER LEAK. The [AP](#) (2/19) reports that “the museum at the Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site in Washington is closed for a second day Thursday after a water leak flooded the museum floor.” NPS spokesman Mike Litterst says “about an inch of water was found in the museum Wednesday morning.” He says “no museum artifacts have been affected or threatened by the water.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M).

NPS, PROJECT PROMISE TEACH SIXTH GRADERS ABOUT SALT RIVER BAY. The [St. Croix Source](#) (2/19) reports that "Project Promise has announced its partnership with the National Park Service (NPS) to offer Salt River Bay's 2015 'Ticket to Ride' program." NPS Education and Interpretation Chief David Goldstein said, "This joint effort is in response to the Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell's call to invest in the next generation of National Park Stewards."

LAND OWNER CLOSES OFF ACCESS TO ANNIVERSARY NARROWS NEAR LAKE MEAD. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/20, 398K) reports that a private landowner has cut off access to a narrow slot canyon frequented by hikers at the northwestern edge of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. According to Lake Mead spokeswoman Christie Vanover, the owner is free to cut off access his property if he wants, and there's nothing the NPS can do about it short of letting people know that the road is no longer open.

NPS PLANS GATES OF THE ARCTIC COMMENT PERIOD. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (2/20, 39K) reports that the NPS is "proposing amendments to a management plan for the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve." According to the article, "an open house will be held from 4-7 p.m. tonight at Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center, 101 Dunkel Street."

SEVEN SOUTH DAKOTA SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (2/19, 116K) reports that seven South Dakota properties have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The sites include the concrete tipis at rest stops along the interstates, Anderson-Ridley Ranch in the St. Onge area, Drake Claim House near Colman, Kudma Homestead and Ranch near Scenic, Murdo State Bank in Murdo, Norbeck-Nicholson Carriage House in Redfield, and Quamman House in Lemmon.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MAPS NOISE LEVELS THROUGHOUT US. Additional coverage of the NPS' work to map noise levels throughout the US was provided by [NPR](#) (2/19, 1.58M).

Bureau of Land Management:

MESQUITE CITY COUNCIL PULLS ITEM BECAUSE OF "SECURITY ISSUE" INVOLVING BLM PRESENTATION. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (2/19, 46K) reports that "Mesquite City Council and staff pulled an item from Tuesday's upcoming City Council because of a 'security issue' involving a planned 'in-person' presentation by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)." According to the article, "after City Manager Andy Barton and Baker refused to elaborate in the open meeting on what the 'security issue' was, council and staff discussed the matter in attorney-client meeting after the tech review."

BLM PLANS WILD HORSE ROUNDUP. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (2/19, 46K) reports that BLM "wranglers will return to Beaver County next week to round up 100 wild horses federal land managers say are causing safety issues along state Route 21." Randy Trujillo, assistant field office manager for the BLM Cedar City Field Office, said, "By gathering these horses up that are hanging around Highway 21, we can avoid the horse and vehicle collisions and reduce the likelihood that one of the horses, or worse a motorist, is going to get killed."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS REINSTATES PROTECTIONS FOR GRAY WOLF. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/20, 699K) reports that the FWS on Thursday "reinstated protections under the federal Endangered Species Act for the gray wolf in Wisconsin and nearby states after a federal judge in December struck down the agency's decision to remove protections." The service's "actions apply to Wyoming, as well as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and portions of North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio."

The [Yahoo! News](#) (2/20, 5.81M) reports that "in a one-paragraph statement, the FWS explained that it had taken the action to comply with two federal court orders in 2014 that overturned the agency's move to end special protections for the gray wolves in these states"

Also reporting on the story are the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/20, Bergquist, 1.37M) and the [Detroit Free Press](#) (2/19, 987K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OREGON CHUB TAKEN OFF ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage of the removal of the Oregon chub from the federal list of endangered and threatened animals was provided by the

[Seattle Times](#) (2/20, 1.05M), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (2/19, 506), and [KFSN-TV](#) Fresno, CA (2/20, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS LAUNCHES EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. Additional coverage of the effort to save monarch butterflies was provided by the [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (2/20), the [Rappahannock \(VA\) News](#) (2/19, 9K), and [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (2/19, 386K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS REPORT FIND CENTRAL VALLEY LEADS NATION IN FALLING GROUNDWATER LEVELS. The [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/20, 163K) reports that "groundwater levels appear to be sinking faster in the Central Valley than anywhere else in the United States, the US Geological Survey says in a new report." The study "does not pinpoint causes, but a USGS expert on Thursday blamed, in part, increased agricultural pumping to make up for drought, now entering its fourth year." The report "urges unspecified 'improved water management' to ward off disaster."

The story also appears at the [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (2/20, 46K).

USGS URGES GREATER TRANSPARENCY, DATA SHARING ON QUAKES LINKED TO OIL, GAS PRODUCTION. The [Oklahoman](#) (2/20, 452K) reports that the USGS "urged greater transparency and data collection between industry and regulators as it highlighted new research Thursday on earthquakes linked to oil and natural gas production." The agency said "a rise in recent earthquake activity in Oklahoma and other areas not usually susceptible to earthquakes was from human-induced activities, not natural processes." The USGS said, "Large areas of the United States that used to experience few or no earthquakes have, in recent years, experienced a remarkable increase in earthquake activity that has caused considerable public concern as well as damage to structures. This rise in seismic activity, especially in the central United States, is not the result of natural processes."

NEW DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN NITROGEN CENTER NAMED. The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (2/20, 51K) reports that Jill Baron, a USGS and Colorado State University Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory senior scientist, has been "named the new director of the North American Nitrogen Center." Baron, "who began the position on Jan. 22, said 'Nitrogen pollution is one of the largest global changes that you've never heard of.'"

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE DEVELOPING BLASTING REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (2/19, Devaney, 224K) reports that the Interior Department is "moving forward with new rules for blasting operations at mines." The OSMRE "granted a petition from an environmental group to prohibit visible nitrogen oxide clouds during blasting operations." The office said "it will begin developing its own regulations to address the matter."

BLM CRITICIZED FOR NPR-A DECISION. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/20, 14K) editorializes that "the \$8 million exacted from ConocoPhillips in order to receive its permit to construct the Greater Moose's Tooth-1 project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska is a rather elegant combination of old school protection rackets and third world government kickbacks." According to the paper, "the ultimate irony of this petty graft is that ConocoPhillips has paid billions upon billions in royalties and taxes over the years that have benefited Alaska Natives far more than anything Sally Jewell can come up with, and it willingly gives millions more in actual contributions to successes such as the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program."

Also providing coverage is [4-Traders](#) (2/20, 6K).

Offshore Energy Development:

OPPOSITION GROWS AGAINST OFFSHORE OIL, NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (2/19, 295K) reports that "a groundswell of Lowcountry coastal towns and cities is gathering to oppose exploring for natural gas or oil offshore, as environmental groups push communities before public meetings on the issue in March and April." The article notes that "the rally is being stirred partly by the

communities' own concerns and partly by the environmental groups, trying to counter a perception that the state largely supports the permits."

The [Saint Peters \(FL\) Blog](#) (2/20) reports that "three energy advocacy groups are condemning a decision to omit Florida from a proposed federal plan to conduct offshore oil and natural gas exploration in areas known to contain energy resources." The groups, Florida Energy Forum, the Consumer Energy Alliance and Florida Vets4Energy claim "the decision will have a negative impact on job creation, the state's economic portfolio and even national security."

Gov. LePage Joins Coalition Supporting Offshore Drilling. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/19, 159K) reports that Gov. Paul LePage has "joined a coalition of governors supporting offshore drilling and exploration for oil and natural gas." The Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition "announced Thursday that LePage had become the first governor from the Northeast to join the group."

BOEM Agrees To Additional Outer Banks Meeting. The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (2/20, 28K) reports that "in response to a request from Congressman Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., and the Dare County Board of Commissioners, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has agreed to hold an additional public scoping meeting on the Outer Banks regarding the federal government's proposal to conduct an oil and gas lease sale off the coast of North Carolina between 2017-2022." According to the article, "the meeting is expected to take place in mid-March, although a specific date, time and location have not yet been set."

Offshore Drilling Plan Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Janesville \(WI\) Gazette](#) (2/19, 58K), Michael Kraft, professor emeritus of political science and public and environmental affairs at UW-Green Bay, argues that the Obama Administration's new offshore oil and gas drilling plan "does little to wean the nation from dependence on fossil fuels, conflicts with other presidential initiatives, and puts coastal waters at serious risk from oil spills."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (2/20, 617K) editorializes that "the president's plan, which also protects sensitive waters off Alaska, has pleased coastal Republican governors who say the oil industry will fire up their economies." However, the editorial argues that "the benefits won't be as bountiful as they claim."

Additional commentary appears in the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (2/20, Kraft, 50K), the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (2/20, Milito, 50K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/20, Weinstein, 2.28M), and the [Canada Free Press](#) (2/20, 1.14M).

BSEE OFFICIALS TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT MAJOR DECOMMISSIONING SUMMIT. The [Your Oil and Gas News](#) (2/20) reports that "Susan Green, deputy regional supervisor for field operations at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), will deliver a keynote address at the 2015 Decommissioning & Abandonment Summit, 17-19 March in Houston." Green will "provide a crucial update on the regulator's priorities at a time when, despite the fall in oil prices, production is expanding in deepwater and ultra-deepwater."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SUES TO STOP CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE FRACKING PERMITS. The [Law 360](#) (2/20, 9K) reports that "the Center for Biological Diversity sued federal offshore drilling regulators on Thursday seeking to stop fracking off the coast of California, arguing the agencies were 'rubberstamping' permits without analyzing the environmental impact of the oil drilling." The center "claims US Department of Interior agencies approved oil companies' development plans for offshore drilling in the 1980s, but never asked for revisions to those plans once the companies sought permission to frack beginning in the mid-1990s."

BARBIER DENIES BP REQUEST TO CAP FINE FOR DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL. [The Hill](#) (2/20, Barron-Lopez, 224K) reports US District Judge Carl Barbier "rejected BP's request to limit its liabilities for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill" yesterday. An article in the [Houston Chronicle](#) reported "Barbier blocked BP's call to have its oil spill liabilities no greater than \$4,300 per barrel maximum, and officially set at \$3,000." He "said he has not determined the final amount of the civil penalty" but that the company "will be responsible for paying as a result of the Deepwater Horizon spill, [which] could run as high as \$13.7 billion."

GULF BEACH SOIL MICROBES CHANGED FOLLOWING OIL SPILL. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/17, Mohan, 3.49M) reports, "Microbes in beach sand apparently gobbled up a lot of oil washed ashore from the 2010 BP oil spill, but that assault altered the microbial population, leaving it less functionally diverse, according to a new study." Georgia Tech environmental microbiologist Konstantinidis Konstantinos, co-author of the study, noted, "One of the key groups that we saw disappearing, from the oil, was these nitrogen fixers." Konstantinos explained, "That's a concern because it supports the rest of the system." After examining soil samples at

Pensacola municipal beach one year following the spill, Konstantinos noted a decrease in oil levels. "The microbes in the beach sand seem to do a good job, biodegrading and removing the oil." The oil spill favored broader generalists rather than "narrowly niched species," according to the study. "It seems...those that can carry out many different functions, are better equipped to deal with oil spills, compared to some specialists," Konstantinos said.

WHISTLEBLOWERS WANT REVIVAL OF \$266 BILLION BP SUIT. The [Law 360](#) (2/20, 9K) reports that "whistleblowers urged a Texas federal judge to reconsider summary judgment in a \$266 billion False Claims Act suit involving BP PLC's Gulf of Mexico-based Atlantis facility on Wednesday, arguing that new evidence supports their allegations of false certification and liability." Plaintiffs Kenneth Abbott, a former BP contractor, and Food & Water Watch Inc. said "they obtained pages from a Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement report on the government's investigation into the platform through a Freedom of Information Act request."

ALASKA URGED TO ENSURE EQUITABLE SHARING OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS REVENUE. In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/19, 146K), Steve Haycox, professor emeritus of history at the University of Alaska Anchorage, writes that "despite President Obama's announcement two weeks ago that certain biologically sensitive areas of the Chukchi and Beaufort off the Slope will be off limits to drilling, it seems increasingly likely that offshore drilling there will pick up soon." In light of this, he urges Alaska's congressional delegation "to build support for revenue sharing legislation for Alaska from new Arctic offshore development."

[Tackling America's Water Challenges:](#)

CALIFORNIA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DIRECTOR ADVISES AGAINST PUMPING MORE DELTA WATER. The [Courthouse News](#) (2/19, 7K) reports that "opposing recommendations from federal and state agencies Wednesday, the head of California's water board advised regulators to deny agribusinesses' request for increased pumping from the Delta during the next two months." The BOR and the Department of Water Resources "want to pump more water from the Delta south to agribusinesses, due to California's historic drought." But state Water Resources Control Board Director Thomas Howard "advised against it, in a standing-room-only audience full of state senators, farmers, fishermen and environmentalists."

Also reporting on the story is the [Breitbart](#) (2/19, 754K).

FARMERS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LEWIS AND CLARK PROJECT. [WNAX-AM](#) Yankton, SD (2/20) reports that "farmers are optimistic about the future of the Lewis and Clark rural water project with the \$9 million in funding received by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation for 2015." The article notes that "that's well above the \$2.4 million in the President's original budget."

[Empowering Native American Communities:](#)

SIX VIRGINIA TRIBES SEEK FEDERAL RECOGNITION THROUGH ACT OF CONGRESS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/19, 49K) reports that "last Wednesday, several Virginia Congressmen reintroduced the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act in hopes that six Virginia Indian tribes will eventually receive official federal recognition by an act of congress." The article notes that "the six tribes, which are all recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia and are currently seeking to gain federal recognition are the Chickahominy, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the Rappahannock, the Monacan and the Nansemond."

SHAWNEE TRIBE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR NEW CASINO. The [AP](#) (2/20) reports that "the Shawnee Tribe has announced plans to build a casino in the state's Panhandle." According to tribal officials, "construction will begin in 2016 and would create 175 jobs with an estimated payroll of about \$4 million." The article notes that "in 2010, the Bureau of Indian Affairs rejected an attempt by the tribe to take land into trust under an equal footing exemption in order to open a \$400 million casino in Oklahoma City near Interstate 35."

LAW PROFESSOR MAKES CASE FOR KENOSHA CASINO. The [Milwaukee Business Journal](#) (2/20, Held, Subscription Publication, 3K) reports that "after a 155-mile walk to Madison failed to sway Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has several legal paths to follow in pursuit of an \$800 million, off-reservation casino project in Kenosha, according to University of Wisconsin-Madison law professor Richard Monette." The article notes that "the legal challenge with the most potential would test a provision of the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and could have an impact on future gaming operations run by Indian tribes across

the US”

Top National News:

OBAMA RHETORIC ON TERRORISM THREAT CONTINUES TO GENERATE DEBATE. Media coverage of the President’s [remarks](#) at a White House Summit on Countering Violence Extremism continued to focus on the Administration’s choice of words to describe the threat. As David Muir reported on the [ABC World News](#) (2/19, story 7, 1:05, Muir, 5.84M), the President is “making headlines...for his choice of words when it comes to describing” ISIL, as he “will not call” it “Islamic terror.” Jonathan Karl noted that the President “wants to make it clear to the world that the United States is not at war with Islam,” and in his speech “he said the notion that the West is at war with Islam is a, quote, ‘ugly lie.’” Republicans and some commentators – particularly on Fox News – continued to pounce on Obama’s decision not to highlight ISIL and Al Qaeda’s ties to Islam, while some Democrats and others news analysts came to his defense. Both sides of the argument were well-represented in the coverage, but the consensus media view is encapsulated in analyses such as the one on [The Hill](#) (2/19, Kamisar, Matishak, 224K), which says the President’s “week has been thrown off message” by the ongoing debate, and Max Fisher’s for [Vox](#) (2/19, 737K), where he writes Obama’s effort to “downplay or outright deny” the “awkward but important fact” that “religion plays an important role as well” is “backfiring.”

All three networks referred to the controversy last night, with the [CBS Evening News](#) and [NBC Nightly News](#) combining their coverage with analysis of remarks Wednesday night by Rudy Giuliani, who told a GOP gathering that he does not believe the President “loves America.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/19, story 6, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M), Bill Plante noted “critics fault the President for not labeling the terrorists Islamic,” and [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M) showed House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul charging, “We will not defeat these fanatics if we refuse to define them” correctly. Fox added that “more worrisome for the President, a leading Democrat,” Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, “concurred the summit was a distraction from the real focus.” Sen. Joe Manchin, asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (2/19, 554K) if he agrees with the President’s refusal to refer to the terrorists as radical Islamists, said, “I don’t. I mean, it’s pretty simple in the language we speak in West Virginia. It is what it is.” Manchin added that “there are radicals in all groups. When you have a radical person who hides behind a religion, whether it be Protestant or Islamic, it is what it is.”

[McClatchy](#) (2/19, Clark, Subscription Publication, 17K) notes Obama addressed “leaders from more than 60 countries” amid “criticism for his administration’s reluctance to categorize as ‘Islamic extremism’ the threat posed by terrorists such as the Islamic State,” and Republicans “were quick to criticize his latest remarks.” Obama, says the [AP](#) (2/19), also “called on the world Thursday to confront efforts to use Islam to justify violence,” while the [New York Times](#) (2/20, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) indicates the President urged “nations around the world to expand human rights, religious tolerance and peaceful dialogue as they struggle to combat a spate of terrorism that has recently struck places as far afield as Australia, Canada and Europe.” Obama “said that poverty and political grievances fuel alienation that can lead to bursts of killing.” The Times also reports that “on promoting democracy and freedom as part of the solution to terrorism, Mr. Obama is returning to a theme he has advanced episodically in the past, and one that his predecessor, President George W. Bush, made the centerpiece of his second inaugural address in 2005.”

Also running similar accounts of Obama’s remarks yesterday are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/19, Lee, Schwartz, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [Reuters](#) (2/19, Wroughton, Hosenball), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/19, Alman, 281K), [The Blaze](#) (2/19, Lucas, 2.17M), [US News & World Report](#) (2/19, Shinkman, 685K) and [TIME](#) (2/19, Rhodan, 19.19M), among others. Yesterday’s speech, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/19, Olorunnipa, 169K) points out, “came on the final day of a three-day summit as he pivoted from the summit’s first two days, where the agenda mostly focused on domestic policy and drawing the cooperation of US Muslim communities.” The [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that Ahmed Aboutaleb, “the mayor of Rotterdam and a practicing Muslim who is attending the summit, said in a phone interview that although he appreciates Obama and Vice President Biden’s emphasis on the need for social inclusion in Western society, it does not explain all radical conversions.” Said Aboutaleb, “It’s part of the answer. ... It remains to be seen why these individuals, some well-educated young people, some with a job, nevertheless decide to join ISIL.”

Ed Henry said on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (2/19, 767K) that in both Obama’s speech and the summit as a whole, “the emphasis is off in the sense that I believe if you had been on Mars the last couple of weeks and then got a ticket to this White House summit, you would think that the crisis we’re facing right now because of the President’s emphasis is that the Muslims are...discriminated against. That seemed odd and off key. The

crisis is: people are being beheaded, specifically Christians and Jews.”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Boyer, 644K) reports that Obama also “suggested that US policy has contributed to the problem over the decades.” Said Obama, “Obviously there is a complicated history between the Middle East and the West. ... None of us should be immune from criticism of specific policies.” In his opening monologue on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (2/19, 767K), Bill O’Reilly said the argument that American policies “provoked the jihadists into slaughtering thousands of innocent people” is insane, and “almost as crazy is believing, as apparently Secretary of State John Kerry does, that the United States can affect poverty in Muslim nations, that we can somehow upgrade the standard of living in Yemen and Afghanistan. The Federal government can’t even eradicate poverty here in America. So, why is the Obama administration putting out this blather?”

The [Washington Times](#) (2/20, Ernst, 644K) reports former CIA Director James Woolsey said on CNN that “Obama ‘looks scared’ to called members of al Qaeda, the Islamic State group and other terrorist organizations ‘Islamic.’” Author and monthly [USA Today](#) (2/19, Robbins, 10.32M) columnist James Robbins says that at the summit, “all topics are fair game except Islamist extremism.” Under the headline “Sophistry Summit’s Foolish Answer To Terror,” Windsor Mann, editor of [The Quotable Hitchens: From Alcohol to Zionism](#), also writes in [USA Today](#) (2/19, Mann, 10.32M) that Obama’s rhetoric on terrorism is “bankrupt...ideologically and materially,” and lacks “moral clarity.”

[AFP](#) (2/20) reports that “there has been some criticism that the conference was hastily announced and representation was spotty,” but “top ministers from Jordan, Denmark, Egypt, France and Belgium which have all suffered serious setbacks at the hands of either extremist groups or lone wolves were present.” The [New York Times](#) (2/20, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that Secretary of State Kerry, “opening the day’s proceedings, said there was no one-size-fits-all solution to the problem.” Said Kerry, “There’s been a silly debate in the media in the last days about what you have to do. ... You have to do everything. You have to take the people off the battlefield who are there today. But you’re kind of stupid if all you do is do that and you don’t prevent more people from going to the battlefield.” UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also addressed the summit yesterday, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/19, Olorunnipa, 169K) reports.

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on [Fox News’ On The Record](#) (2/19, 654K), that the summit is “kind of a cross between a sociology graduate school seminar and a community organizing workshop. This is not really a serious effort to confront the threat that we face, and I think part of it’s political correctness. I do think part of it is just dishonesty. I think the message that the President and Secretary Kerry send is these are people who are inherently violent and they’re using religion to justify the violence that they already want to commit. I don’t think that’s an accurate reflection of what motivates these guys. I think they’re motivated by a religious ideology, and it’s because they believe in that ideology that they’re motivated to violence.”

Charles Krauthammer, asked [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M) what did not come out of the summit, said, “Anything of any importance. The idea behind it is the President wanted to assuage the feelings and the anxieties of the Muslim community here and around the world.” Krauthammer noted that while that “is a good thing to do,” he questioned why “at a time Christians are under savage attack in the Middle East, where this is the biggest ethnic cleansing since at least the Balking wars, where communities that have lives in the Middle East longer than Islam has existed, for 2,000 years, are being wiped out, enslaved, executed, crucified, and that the Christian presence which has been there for 2,000 years in the Middle East is at stake,” this is “the number one priority of this Administration, an Administration that supposedly is the bulwark against these savages? I find it extremely bizarre.”

Author Michael Weiss said on [CNN’s Legal View](#) (2/19, 473K), “I think the problem with the United States policy right now is we’re spending so much time arguing over the lexicon and the optics of this coalition and this campaign, we are actually spending less time focusing on how to destroy this organization. The President calls them ISIL. What does ISIL stand for? The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Then he says it has nothing to do with Islam. It has something to do with Islam.”

Howard Dean defended the President on [MSNBC’s Hardball](#) (2/19, 713K), “First of all, the Islamic terrorists want us to call them Islamists. Why? Because that cloaks them in a religion that a billion people believe in. In fact, the President is absolutely right to say this is not about Islam. This is about a bunch of thugs and murderers and terrorists that we need to get rid of. That deprives them of the very rationale they are using to recruit people.”

David Obeidallah of the Daily Beast said on [MSNBC’s Now](#) (2/19, 213K), “We are having a game over this

dispute. People on the right – I would love them to tell me, if you use the word radical Islam, how would that change our policy in any way? ... There's a reasons that are doing that," which "are strategic and are ultimately helping us in this fight. That should be the number one issue. Not partisan fighting over words." On [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (2/19, 713K), Ron Fournier made a similar point, noting, "He could say it for the next 48 hours over and over again, but it wouldn't kill one terrorist, but it will stop playing this game with Republicans, stop taking their debate, stop letting them dominate the narrative here."

Michael Scherer, Washington Bureau Chief for TIME, noted on [MSNBC's Now](#) (2/19, 213K), "I think the White House has been very clear on this front that using this terminology hurts our cause. And what is interesting about what the President did today, and to a lesser extent yesterday, is he elevated his critics." The President "is elevating and saying these things that are being said by pundits in the press, he uses euphemisms, are actually going to hurt our national security. I don't think he's doing that because he wants to win political points. I think he's doing it because he thinks on the substance that there's a recruitment issue here. And if this story line becomes the West versus Islam, as the Islamists want it to be, or that ISIS begins to represent Islam in the eyes of many Americans....then there's an enormous danger of a future recruitment."

Fareed Zakaria, writing for the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, 5.17M), also argues that Obama is "deliberately choosing not to emphasize the Islamic State's religious dimension for political and strategic reasons. After all, what would be the practical consequence of describing the group, also known as ISIS, as Islamic? Would the West drop more bombs on it? Send in more soldiers to fight it? No, but it would make many Muslims feel that their religion had been unfairly maligned."

Democrats Denounce Giuliani, Urge Republicans To Follow Suit. Coverage of Giuliani's remarks Wednesday night reflected the barrage of criticism for the former New York City mayor, with Democrats out in full force and Republicans declining to defend him. The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/19, story 6, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) tied Giuliani's criticism to Obama's choice of words to describe the ISIL threat, and showed the former New York City mayor saying, "I do not believe that the President loves America. What's wrong with this man?" Lester Holt noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/19, story 5, 1:55, Holt, 7.86M) that Giuliani's comments "set off a war of words." Andrea Mitchell noted that the comments "drew such sharp responses Giuliani backed down, sort of." Giuliani was shown saying, "He's a patriot, I'm sure. What I'm saying [is that] in his rhetoric I hear him criticize America much more often than other American presidents."

In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (2/19, Haberman, Confessore, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), meanwhile, Giuliani "dismissed the criticism and said he was describing the worldview that had shaped Mr. Obama's upbringing." Said Giuliani, "Some people thought it was racist – I thought that was a joke, since he was brought up by a white mother, a white grandfather, went to white schools, and most of this he learned from white people. ... This isn't racism. This is socialism or possibly anti-colonialism." Giuliani also "challenged a reporter to find examples of Mr. Obama expressing love for his country." Said the former mayor, "I'm happy for him to give a speech where he talks about what's good about America and doesn't include all the criticism."

The [AP](#) (2/19, Thomas) reports that Democrats "urged the potential field of Republican presidential candidates to rebuke him for his comments," with DNC head Debbie Wasserman-Schultz saying "it's time for Republican leaders to 'stop this nonsense.'" Several GOP presidential hopefuls, however, "declined to get involved," even as Giuliani "softened his remarks somewhat in an interview, saying he didn't mean to question the president's patriotism."

[Politico](#) (2/19, Gass, 683K) noted that during a CNBC interview, Gov. Scott Walker said, "The mayor can speak for himself. I'm not going to comment on what the president thinks or not, he can speak for himself as well. I can tell you I love this country." Giuliani had made his controversial comments at an event with Walker. White House spokesman Eric Schultz, the [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Miller, 644K) reports, noted that fact yesterday, pointing out that "one of the GOP frontrunners was sitting just feet away and didn't say anything."

The [AP](#) (2/19, Thomas) reports Schultz said Giuliani already "test drove this line of attack during his fleeting 2007 run for the presidency." [USA Today](#) (2/19, Jackson, 10.32M) notes Schultz also called the comments "a horrible thing to say," but "declined to comment at length," remarking, "He seems embarrassed enough to be doing damage control this morning, so I'm not going to pile on from here." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/19, Lee, 3.49M) reports that on Twitter yesterday, "the hashtag #ObamaLovesAmerica began trending nationwide."

Rick Stengel, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/19, 487K), "I think the President loves the country in an extraordinary way. He's an American exceptionalist but with a slightly different attitude. What he said this morning, our job is not to tell you what to

do. Our job is to be your partner. That's a different division of power in the world and that is the vision for American power in the 21st century."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (2/19, 299K), "It shows a very troubling degradation of our politics, to attack the Commander-in-Chief at a time when we should be concerned about the ISIL threat and what it presents to national security, to people of decency all across the world." Jeffries added, "The problem with the Republican attack machine is that facts don't matter. If you look at this presidency, it has been one of the most successful in history, not just bringing us groundbreaking legislation to rein in Wall Street, to deal with the affordable healthcare crisis, but he's turned the economy around. He inherited an economic train wreck and the economy is back on track. To me, that's shows a tremendous love of America."

Dana Milbank said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (2/19, 299K), "I think it is a continuation of what we've been seeing over the last seven years now, that is to create the impression that this President is something other than a patriotic American. Of course Giuliani was questioning his patriotism before coming out and saying he wasn't questioning his patriotism, and he's not alone. We've got Ted Cruz. We've got Republican members of the House, we've got others raising doubts repeatedly about where this President's loyalties are, whether they're to America or to the terrorists."

Jeanne Cummings of Bloomberg said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/19, 487K) that Giuliani's comments seem "like a continuation of the questions about Obama's birth certificate, et cetera. That one strain of the Republican party has...been quite stubborn about these kinds of issues. The thing I thought was really odd was he wasn't raised like you and me. What's the American way of raising a child to love its country? We're all raised differently by our own families, that part was peculiar. And of course Scott Walker's silence in failure to say at minimum, I don't agree with him was also really striking."

Mara Liasson said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M) that Giuliani "should have quit while he was ahead. I mean, to say that Barack Obama is not Ronald Reagan in the eyes of a Republican? I mean, that's just a given. I think he stopped digging himself a hole." Judge Andrew Napolitano said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/19, 1.53M), "I know Rudy, I like him. I think he is a deep thinker. I think it was an unfortunate choice of words. I don't know how he could possibly know what is in the President's heart."

Howard Dean said on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (2/19, 713K), "I actually have come to know Rudy in our post-political careers, and I actually think he's serious. I don't think he's just kind of catering to the right-wing nut jobs. I think there is just a disconnect between some people who just don't understand what Barack Obama is about. It's a shocking thing to say. I couldn't believe he doubled down the next day." Dean added, "I think frankly that stuff is so far out that only the hate wing of the Republican party is going to accept that. That's not very big."

Jindal: "Gist" Of Giuliani Comments "True." Whereas most Republicans yesterday failed to come to Giuliani's defense, Gov. Bobby Jindal defended the comments. The [Washington Times](#) (2/19, Chesmar, 644K) reports that Jindal said, "The gist of what Mayor Giuliani said – that the president has shown himself to be completely unable to speak the truth about the nature of the threats from these [Islamic State] terrorists – is true. ... If you are looking for someone to condemn the mayor, look elsewhere."

Harf Wrote College Thesis On How Evangelical Support For Israel Complicates US Foreign Policy. The [Daily Caller](#) (2/19, Howley, 318K) reported that according to Indiana University records, State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf "wrote her college honors thesis on 'how conservative evangelical support for Israel complicates US foreign policy.'" The Daily Caller said her thesis "further illustrates the collegiate thinking in an Obama administration that has alienated a key American ally in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

SHORTAGES DUE TO PORT LABOR PROBLEM BEGINNING TO BE FELT. The [New York Times](#) (2/20, Tabuchi, Stevenson, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that because of the labor difficulties at the West Coast ports, "essential items for the start of Chinese New Year celebrations on Thursday were in short supply" across the nation, in an "example of the widening and sometimes unexpected fallout from the gridlock at seaports on the West Coast." However, "labor officials indicated few signs of a breakthrough late Wednesday, saying only that the Obama administration would continue to work with both parties on an agreement."

[USA Today](#) (2/20, Woodyard, 10.32M) reports that with the labor dispute slowing work at West Coast ports, "driving into the Port of Los Angeles on recent weekends has been an eerie sight," with the lack of activity replicated up and down the West Coast. Overall, the piece portrays the Longshoremen in a favorable light, saying that "in negotiations, they have brilliantly traded gains in efficiency for big pay" and that the average

member "earns \$147,000 a year."

USA Today Blames Longshoremen For Slowdown, Says Raise Offer A Good One. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (2/20, 10.32M) says that the actions of the well-paid longshoremen are harming their "blue-collar brethren" with their work slowdown. The slowdown "is having a considerable impact on workers whose jobs and income rely on imports and exports, and who are wondering what they did to deserve their fates." USA Today says that the management offer of a 14% increase in wages over five years "seems reasonable in a period of low inflation and looming competition."

In an opposing op-ed for [USA Today](#) (2/20, Brenner, 10.32M), Mark Brenner, director of Labor Notes, writes at the "urging" of the longshoremen's union that the members' compensation is "the product of struggle. Longshore workers have fought for 80 years to get a fair share of the fruits of their labor. Today's standoff is just the latest battle." He says that they should be "applauded, not demonized, for defending good working-class jobs."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Egypt's Crisis Across The Border With Libya." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says, "There is little evidence that the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has thought through" its military response to militants in Libya. According to the Times, Egypt and other regional countries "should be working together to reinforce" the UN "negotiation initiative" in Libya, rather than taking actions that will enhance "divisions."

"Separate Philanthropy From Political Clout." The [New York Times](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, says the Clinton Foundation should "reinstate" its ban against foreign contributors, "who might have matters of concern to bring before a future Clinton administration." Restoring the ban, it argues, "would be a good way to make this point as Mrs. Clinton's widely expected campaign moves forward."

WASHINGTON POST. "Mocking Democracy In Va." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/19, 5.17M) criticizes a move by Virginia legislators to alter the district of state Sen. Bryce Reeves (R) to make it more Republican. The Post says that the move "echoes the 'democracies' of Russia, Syria and other unsavory places."

"Thailand's Rule By Force." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, 5.17M) says Thailand's military "has little to show" for its coup. The Post says the "economy is stagnant," "reconciliation" has not occurred, and "martial law" remains in effect. The Post says "in the absence of meaningful steps...the Thai military will lose its relationship" with the US. In the absence of Presidential action, the Post urges Congress to "step in" to impose the consequence.

"Oil Train Safety." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, 5.17M) says that the West Virginia "oil train disaster was bad — but it could have been worse." Federal regulators "should have mandated modernization years ago," and now that they are considering them, should "require cars that are safer than the ones that derailed in West Virginia." Regulators "also should set an ambitious schedule to finish retrofitting and replacing old cars, and they should do so soon."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Ukraine Humiliation." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) during says Western leaders decision to acquiesce to Russia during the most recent Minsk negotiations allows Russian President Vladimir Putin to be more confident in his end-goal of a fearful West and regional dominance.

"Wal-Mart's Capitalist Payday." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that Walmart's decision to raise its minimum wage is being viewed as either a self-interested move or an enlightened one. However, the Journal says that what it really is a rebuke to those that believe in the necessity of raising the minimum wage. The Journal says that Walmart's move shows that the best way to increase wages is through faster economic growth that boosts demand for labor.

"The 'Risk Free' Hank Greenberg Case." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that evidence gathered by Federal investigators a decade ago undercuts the case brought against former AIG CEO Hand Greenberg by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. According to the Journal, the evidence, which Greenberg seeks to use in a civil case, shows that a key witness in Schneiderman's case testified falsely, and the Journal urges the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division to dismiss the

case against Greenberg..

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Wal-Mart Lifts Wages As Market Gets Tighter
State Department Can't Root Out Hackers
Greece Can Pay Its Debts In Full, But It Won't
Hillary Clinton's Complex Corporate Ties

New York Times:

Walmart Lifts Its Wage Floor To \$9 An Hour
Critics In GOP Say Chris Christie Is In A 'Bubble'
US Muslims Take On ISIS' Recruiting Machine
On Terror, Gentle Hand Or Iron Fist
On Wall St., Rules On Capital Humble Banks And Shrink Pay
An American Sniper, His Killer, And Deep Scars Bared For A Jury

Washington Post:

Chicago Battle Highlights Democrats' Rifts
A Movement Or A Moment?
Metro Kept Quiet About Radio Alarm Malfunctions
Think Of Earth, Not Just Your Stomach, Advises Nutrition Panel
Europe Confronts New Gun Culture

Financial Times:

Walmart Bows To Pressure In 1bn Boost For Lowest Paid
Germans Rebuff Greek "Trojan Horse" Conditions For Extending Rescue Plan
Lenovo Under Fire As Adware Leaves Laptops Vulnerable To Hacking Attacks

Washington Times:

US Plans Large-Scale Offensive To Take Mosul, Iraq, From Islamic State Militants
Navy SEAL Who Killed Bin Laden Foresees US Ground Troops In Islamic State Fight
Sheriffs Spent Violent Offender Tracking Funds On Shirts, Dinners With Spouses
Attacks On Koch Brothers Contributed To Democrats' Midterms Losses, Party Officials Say
Obama Appoints Czar To Combat Islamic State, Al Qaeda Propaganda As Summit Ends
Climate Change Activists Dismiss Fossil Fuel Divestment Push As Waste Of Time, Resources

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Northeast; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; American Sniper Murder Trial; Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; Delaware-Domestic Violence Case; Walmart-Employee Raises; Coffee Recommendations.

CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Georgia; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Iraq-Battle For Mosul; ISIL-CBS News Poll; Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; Iran-Drug Addiction Crisis; Employment-Social Media Activity; Iwo Jima Anniversary; January Climate Report.

NBC: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Healthcare-Associated Infections; Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; American Sniper Murder Trial; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; California Refinery Explosion-Gas Prices; Walmart-Employee Raises; Dietary Recommendations; Australia-Tropical Cyclones; New National Monuments.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Winter Weather – 13 minutes, 40 seconds
UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
Extremism Summit-Obama Speech – 4 minutes, 55 seconds
Las Vegas-Road Rage Case – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
Walmart-Employee Raises – 2 minutes, 15 seconds
American Sniper Murder Trial – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Dietary Recommendations – 1 minute, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Texas-Same-Sex Couple Gets Married; Extremist Summit-DOJ Study; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; Australia-Tropical Cyclones; West Coast Seaports-Labor Dispute; Wall Street.

CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; American Sniper Murder Trial; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Lenovo-Laptop Controversy; Wall Street.

FOX: Las Vegas-Road Rage Case; West Coast Seaports-Labor Dispute; Walmart-Employee Raises; California Refinery Explosion-Gas Prices; UCLA Medical Center-Superbug Outbreak; Bobbi Brown Hospitalized.

NPR: Extremism Summit-Obama Speech; Texas-Same-Sex Couple Gets Married; West Coast Seaports-Labor Dispute; USPS-Labor Union Contract Talks; Tennessee-Armory Shooting; American Sniper Murder Trial; Obama Speech-Giuliani Comments.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President and the Vice President receive the Presidential Daily Briefing; deliver remarks at the General Session of the 2015 DNC Winter Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC, travel pool coverage; attends a DNC Roundtable, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC, closed press; the President and the Vice President attend the Democratic Governors Association Meeting, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, pool spray at the top. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

MICHELLE OBAMA — First Lady Michelle Obama will deliver remarks at "Celebrating Women of the Movement", an event honoring Black History Month at the White House. At the event, the First Lady will introduce a panel of intergenerational women who have played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement – both past and present. The panel will be moderated by Vanessa De Luca, Editor-in-Chief of Essence magazine. This event will be livestreamed on WhiteHouse.gov/live. The First Lady's remarks are open press, but space is limited.

DR. JILL BIDEN — Dr. Biden will deliver remarks in Baltimore, Maryland at DREAM 2015 – Achieving the Dream's Annual Institute on Student Success – "to highlight the Administration's commitment to community colleges and their importance to America's future." This event is open press.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: No Scheduled Events.

Other: **USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM** — Feb. 19 – 20. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced speakers for the 2015 Agricultural Outlook Forum, "Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century". Speaking at the 25 breakout sessions and five topical luncheons will be more than 100 distinguished experts. Breakout session topics on the agenda include: Perspectives on Global and U.S. Trade; Big Data's Impact on U.S. Agriculture; Commodity Situation and Outlooks; Food Price and Farm Income Outlooks; Moving Feed, Food and Fuel to Market; Opportunities in the Bio-Economy; Antimicrobial Resistance; and Bee/Pollinator Issues Facing Agriculture. Media planning on attending should register before the deadline at

<https://www.etched.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=107650&>. Location: Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. Contacts: Brenda Chapin (202) 720-5447. On the Net:

www.usda.gov/oce/forum.

DNC WINTER MEETING — Feb. 19 – 21. 2015 DNC Winter Meeting. At the first General Session on Friday, members will hear from President Barack Obama. At a second General Session on Saturday, members will hear from DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear. In addition, Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy will speak to the meeting of the Association of State Democratic Chairs. You must RSVP to ChangE@dnc.org by 6PM, Wednesday, February 18 indicating which days you plan to attend. Due to space constraints, a limited number of credentials will be issued for General Session on Friday. All those receiving credentials will be notified on the 18th after RSVPs close. Please include "DNC Meeting RSVP" in the subject. Location: Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill.

STATE SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE — Microsoft and Politico host the Fifth Annual State Solutions Conference as a preview to the National Governors Association Winter Meeting. Governors from across the

country will discuss innovative approaches that their states have taken to address complex problems. The event includes a morning and afternoon session featuring conversations with Governors Bill Haslam, Rick Scott, Gina Raimondo, Terry McAuliffe and Jay Nixon. Location: Microsoft Innovation & Policy Center, 901 K St. NW. Contacts: Sarah Murphy (Sarah, Murphy@bm.com), 202-530-4695. Notes: The event will livestream at POLITICO.com/live.

NGA WINTER MEETING — Feb. 20 – 23. National Governors Association (NGA) 2015 Winter Meeting. For full agenda: <http://nga.org/cms/sites/meetings/home/wm15/gen/j4r/index.html>. Location: Main location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Various off site events as well. Check agenda for further details. Media: Justice Room. Contacts: NGA communications 202-624-5301. Notes: Media must register: <http://nga.org/cms/sites/meetings/home/wm15/gen/j4r/media.html>.

U.S. CHAMBER – NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNORS, PREMIERS — 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. U.S. Chamber to Host Discussion with North American Governors and Premiers. The U.S. Chamber will host a meeting of governors and premiers from across North America to focus on opportunities for economic cooperation and efforts to improve hemispheric integration. The breakfast event will feature a panel discussion and Q-and-A session designed to maintain momentum in advancing the three countries strategic relationship. Participants will include Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado; Gov. Jorge Herrera Caldera of Durango, Mexico, chairman of the National Conference of Governors; and Premier Paul Davis of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, incoming chairman of the Council of the Federation. Location: US Chamber of Commerce Headquarters, 1615 H Street NW. Contacts: Tyler Hernandez themandez@uschamber.com

AFL-CIO MEDIA BREAKFAST — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. The Metro Washington Council, AFL-CIO to host area reporters and local labor communicators and leaders to attend the second annual Labor-Media Breakfast “on background” Roundtable. Location: AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street NW. Contacts: RSVP to cgarlock@dclabor.org

SOLAR JOBS PANEL — 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. Top solar industry, non-profit and government leaders to discuss new solar jobs data and innovative partnerships for building a diverse and inclusive solar workforce. Speakers include: David Foster, Senior Advisor to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz; Brandon Middaugh, Chief of Staff, SunEdison; Andrea Luecke, President and Executive Director, The Solar Foundation; Erica Mackie, CEO and Co-Founder, GRID Alternatives; Salvador Torres, Solar Installation Supervisor and former Job Trainee, GRID Alternatives. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grid-alternatives-solar-jobs-panel-tickets-15525945521>. On the Net: <http://www.press.org/events/solar-jobs-panel>.

BROOKINGS – BESHEAR, HICKENLOOPER — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The Center for Effective Public Management at Brookings will host Governors Steve Beshear (D-Ky.) and John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) to provide insight on the performance of their states’ leadership in comparison with the “paralyzing gridlock” of the national government. Location: Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Contacts: Christine M. Jacobs, 202-797-6012.

WASHINGTON INSTITUTE – RETURNING TERRORISTS — 12:30 p.m. Counterterrorism lecture, “Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters.” With Maj. Gen. Doug Stone, USMC (ret.). Location: 1828 L Street NW, Suite 1050. Notes: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/rehabilitation-and-reintegration-of-returning-foreign-terrorist-fighters>.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

David Letterman: “You know who’s ready to go with the presidential campaign? Jeb Bush. Jeb Bush. He has already got the crooked voting machines lubed up. He’s ready to go. And Jeb Bush already has plans to end the war in Iraq that his brother started. And all he needs is a hot tub time machine.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Jeb Bush had a big speech on national security yesterday. And he had a pretty rough time. Yeah, he accidentally said that ISIS has 200,000 men instead of 20,000. Big mistake. And he mispronounced the name of the terrorist group Boko Haram. So if history has taught us anything, Jeb is well on his way to winning the White House.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Now they’re saying that Rand Paul will announce that he plans to run for president in April. He is waiting until he feels more prepared, for a few other candidates to drop out, and for the birds on his head to

leave the nest.”

Conan O'Brien: “Yesterday during his speech on national security, Jeb Bush mispronounced Boko Haram and got confused between Iran and Iraq. Yeah. When reached for comment, his brother, George W., said, ‘He sure sounds presidential to me.’”

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: E&E PM: Obama defends latest designations amid sharp GOP criticism

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

From: Kershaw, Jessica [mailto:jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 7:36 PM

To: Kate Kelly; Blake Androff; Emily Beyer; Nikki Buffa; Tommy Beaudreau; John Blair; Sarah Neimeyer; Neil Kornze; Jonathan Jarvis; David Jayo; April Slayton; Bret Birdsong; Molly Ros

Subject: Re: E&E PM: Obama defends latest designations amid sharp GOP criticism

E&E PM: Obama defends latest designations amid sharp GOP criticism

Scott Streater, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, February 19, 2015

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President Obama today defended his use of a century-old law to bypass Congress and establish three new national monuments during a speech in Chicago, saying it is every American's responsibility to protect these sites for future generations.

Calling America's public lands and waters "the birthright of all Americans," he formally announced he is using his executive authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish

- The 21,500-acre Browns Canyon National Monument in south-central Colorado, encompassing a picturesque section of the upper Arkansas River Valley that Obama called "an outdoor area protected as a critical brown trout fishery and the site of world-class whitewater rafting and hiking. The site will be co-managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service."
- The 203-acre Pullman National Monument in Chicago, which commemorates a planned community built by industrialist George Pullman in the late 1800s that was the center of a violent riot. Obama said, "a milestone in our journey to a more perfect union." The National Park Service will manage the site, marking it as the first national park unit in the Windy City.
- The Honolulu National Monument covering about 160 acres on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, Obama's native state. The designation protects the site of a Japanese-American interment camp and illustrates "the fragility of civil rights during times of conflict," according to the White House. NPS will manage the monument site, which is located in a steep canyon not far from Pearl Harbor.

"And it is one of our responsibilities as Americans to protect this inheritance and to strengthen it for the future," Obama said of U.S. public lands during a 20-minute speech at the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center in Chicago.

"And that's why I've used my authority to set aside more public lands and waters than any president in history," he said. "No matter who you are, no matter where you live, our parks and our public lands are part of our national heritage. And today, right here in Chicago, I'm using my powers as president to announce America's three newest national monuments, places that reflect our history and our national heritage."

The White House yesterday announced the president would designate all three sites ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 18).

Obama has now used the Antiquities Act 16 times to establish national monuments protecting sensitive landscapes like Browns Canyon, as well as culturally significant sites such as César E. Chávez Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

The White House today said Obama, through executive actions such as national monument designations, has helped preserve more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – a fact that is part of our history."

But GOP leaders have blasted the president's use of the Antiquities Act to bypass Congress and establish new monuments, accusing Obama of abusing the law for political gain. Republicans have sought to restrict the president's authority to unilaterally designate new monuments without congressional approval.

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) ripped the latest designations, saying in a statement that the White House "has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the rule of law by these unilateral, unchecked land designations."

Bishop added: "President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama administration's actions are a complete stretch of the truth. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives."

The issue, however, is a complicated one, and the president's use of the Antiquities Act has supporters and detractors from both political parties.

For example, four Republican members of Congress from Illinois last year called for the president to protect the Pullman historical site, despite the long-standing GOP opposition to the use of the Antiquities Act.

And in Colorado, Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D) have urged the president to use the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon after legislation led by former Sen. But critics such as Colorado Rep. Doug Lamborn (R), whose 5th District encompasses the Browns Canyon area, warned that presidentially designated monuments don't receive adequate funding for the public lands system.

"People must realize that national monuments created by presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act often become underfunded and neglected orphan properties," Lamborn, who is a member of the House Resources, said in a statement. "This is because they are created outside the normal congressional process and without local consensus, robbing the people of fair and open input. Browns Canyon is no exception."

Praise for new monuments

But the designations continue to draw praise from conservation groups and civil rights advocates for their cultural and environmental significance.

A diverse coalition of 13 civil rights groups, including the Japanese American Citizens League, League of United Latin American Citizens and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, praised the decision to designate the Honolulu National Monument.

"The establishment of Honolulu as a national monument will allow the National Park Service to tell the important story of the suspension of constitutional liberties for an entire civilian population as we celebrate our history and heritage through recognition in the sites associated with our achievements, we must also remember, interpret and understand our nation's complex history as well as the impact of war on our people."

In that way, the designation "is a critical step towards healing the wounds of internment," Priscilla Ouchida, executive director of the Japanese American Citizens League, said today in a statement.

"The national monument not only protects a vitally important place that can educate future generations about America's complex past – it is a symbol that we as a country care about preserving our history and our Americans," she added.

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) today also praised the designation of the Pullman National Monument in Chicago as an important addition to the nation's history of civil rights. Pullman, which has been a National Historic Landmark since 1970, was determined by the National Park Service in 2013 to be a site of national significance.

Built by train car manufacturer George Pullman between 1880 and 1884, the eponymous neighborhood was one of the first completely planned industrial towns. It became the focus of the Pullman Palace Car Co. workers' strike of 1894, which led to the Pullman National Monument. Railroad union members supported the strike by boycotting Pullman cars (Green Party).

President Cleveland responded to the work stoppage by intervening with federal troops. Thirty strikers were killed in the violence that ensued, and the Labor Day national holiday was declared.

"Pullman's story should be remembered and recounted," said Lynn McClure, NPCA's Midwest senior regional director. "Today's designation is a testament to unwavering community spirit, told for the millions of people that visit our national parks each year."

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 7:07 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

St Croix Source: Project Promise, NPS Teach Sixth Graders

BY SOURCE STAFF — FEBRUARY 19, 2015



[Project Promise along with the National Park Service teach kids about their park](#)

Project Promise has announced its partnership with the National Park Service's "Ticket to Ride" program. "This joint effort is in response to the Secretary's goal of making the next generation of National Park Stewards," said NPS Education and Interpretation. "This program will afford the opportunity to visit a National Park and Ecological Preserve thanks to cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. This is the first program offered by Project Promise, and organizers expect it to be a success. The three-point program, designed by Project Promise, includes an introduction to the park at the school, followed by an on-site park tour, and a classroom visit by an instructor to review what was learned. All three parts take place in the same day. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about Salt River Bay's rich history and culture. The kids are really enjoying this program", said O'Reilly.

The Visitor Center Tour introduces students to Salt River Bay's incredible history through artifacts and a PowerPoint, discover the story of Columbus' encounter with the Taino people, and learn about the natural resources through a craft-making exercise. Students will tour the west side of the park and learn about the natural resources through an experience visit to the school, students will participate in a question and answer session about Salt River Bay's historical and cultural significance. Project Promise is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youth on St. Croix by providing employment and family services.

<http://stcroixsource.com/content/community/national-park/2015/02/19/project-promise-nps-teach-sixth-graders-about-salt-river-bay>

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 6:05 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Pullman:

Obama designates Pullman as Chicago's first national park
Sun Times // Becky Schlikerman // February 19, 2015
President Barack Obama arrived in Chicago Thursday afternoon and headed to the Far South Side, where he officially declared the far south side Pullman Historic District a national monument. Obama said as he took the stage, referring to the 1-degree temperatures measured at O'Hare as he had landed.

The NW Times: President visits Pullman neighborhood to establish national monument

monument



President Barack Obama visits Chicago Thursday to designate the Pullman National Monument.

2 hours ago • Andrew Steele andrew.steele@nwi.com, (219) 933-3241

Related Video



President Obama announces Pullman National Monument

Related Galleries



Gallery: Chicago's Pullman Historic District

Pullman to be designated region's 2nd national park; Obama to visit

CHICAGO | After three years of work, word came Tuesday that Historic Pullman District will become a national park, marking the second such des... [Read more](#)



The Pullman community's place in history

1879: George M. Pullman purchases 4,000 acres south of Chicago; 600 of those acres would be used for building the factory shops to manufacture Pullman Palace Car Company's sle

1880-84: Construction of the factory shops and town, the first American model industrial town

1885: Town reaches peak population of 9,000

1894: Pullman refuses to meet with workers committee to discuss grievances, leading to the Pullman Strike interrupting rail and mail service. Federal troops are brought in to end the strike.

1897: George Pullman dies, succeeded as Pullman Company president by Robert Todd Lincoln

1898: Illinois Supreme Court orders company to sell all property not used for industrial purposes

1907: All Pullman residential properties are sold to private owners

1925: Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters organized as first all black union in the country, the culmination of decades of effort by Pullman porters to organize

Learn more

For more information on the Pullman National Monument, visit these websites:

pullmanil.org

www.pullman-museum.org

npca.org/NPforPullman

President Barack Obama recalled his days as a community organizer on Chicago's south side as he signed an order Thursday afternoon declaring the historic Pullman neighborhood the Pullman

"It's always fun coming home for me, but this is special," he said. Obama said he took either the 111th or 115th street exit from the Bishop Ford Freeway into the Pullman area "every day for t

"To be able to come back here today where I cut my teeth ... that means a lot," Obama said.

The new Pullman National Monument includes 203 acres stretching roughly from East 103rd Street on the north to East 115th on the south; and from South Cottage Grove Avenue on the west

"This place has been a milestone in our journey toward a more perfect union," Obama said.

Prominent buildings still standing in the Pullman community include the old Hotel Florence, the clock tower and administration buildings, Market Hall and Greenstone Church. But the contrib employees, and their families, were preeminent Thursday.

George Pullman "lived out America's" promise, Obama said, but his workers weren't always so lucky.

"So his workers organized, for better pay, for better work conditions," Obama said. A strike was broken by federal troops, resulting in the deaths of more than 30 workers

"The idea they had sparked ... could not be silenced," Obama said.

Six days after the strike, the U.S. Congress created the Labor Day holiday.

"This site is at the heart of what would become the American labor movement," Obama said.

The formation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters union had its roots in the Pullman Co. and its porters.

"Pullman became the first large company in America to recognize a union of black members," Obama said, calling that "one of the first great victories in the civil rights movement."

"Generations before you fought and sacrificed," Obama said.

Among the descendents of the Pullman porters is first lady Michelle Obama, whose great-grandfather was a porter, Obama said.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, in introducing the president, talked about Pullman's role in the great migration of 1915.

He said the Pullman Co.'s train porters were its ambassadors, bringing information from Chicago to the rest of the country.

"It was that migration that would change the face of our city, and the fate of our nation," Emanuel said.

The signing ceremony was held at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy. The Pullman neighborhood school was established in 1915 as the Pullman Free School of Manual Training from George Pullman.

The superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Paul Labovitz, attended the ceremony, calling it "an amazing day."

Pullman National Monument and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore are linked by geography, and will be linked, at least at first, administratively.

"Probably a minute after the signing, there'll be rangers over there," Labovitz said before the official designation.

After that, Labovitz will serve as temporary superintendent of Pullman, and dunes staff will begin working on programming.

"We're just going to add value to the great programs that exist (at the Pullman Historic District) today," Labovitz said.

Labovitz mentioned that there was once a Pullman factory in Michigan City.

"The whole Calumet Region is connected through industry, through nature," Labovitz noted. "The only thing that separates the two parks is the state line, an artificial line."

Patricia Trap, the acting regional director for the Midwest Region of the National Park Service, said the park service will only own about one-third of an acre of the 203-acre monument initially.

"The power of this place is the people behind it," she said. "Behind every National Park Service site in America is a group of citizens who cared so much about a place and a story. They bring it to life."

The national monument designation was made using the Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows a president to protect public land deemed to have historic, scientific or scenic value.

Obama declared two other new monuments Thursday: Browns Canyon in Colorado, a 21,000-acre natural area through which the Arkansas River runs; and Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii.

There are about 140 national monuments in the country. The National Park Service directly manages about three quarters of them.

"These places and many more like them... will tell the story of America," Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said. "There are stories right here in Pullman that will help tell this story."

"Because of your vision, we acted," Jewell said to Pullman activists.

Meanwhile, The National Park Foundation announced that nearly \$8 million dollars has been raised to support the monument. The money will go toward establishment of a visitor center, education center and the Pullman Administrative Clock Tower Building, according to the foundation.

Also during Thursday's event, Obama announced initiation of the Every Kid in a Park program designed to bring children and families to the national parks. The initiative includes free admission to national parks during the 2016 school year.

"Chances are there's (a national park) closer than you think," Obama said.

Politico: Obama names new monuments with cheeky hashtag

By NICK GASS

2/19/15 5:39 PM EST

President Barack Obama stopped over in his adopted hometown of Chicago on Thursday afternoon to designate three new national monuments for protection, including the city's Pullman Park. "It's always been a dream of mine to be the first president to designate a national monument in subzero conditions," he joked after being introduced by former chief of staff and Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Story Continued Below
A White House tweet about the event included the hashtag #ObamaLovesAmerica, a sly reference to former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani's remark last night, first reported by POLITICO.

In addition to the Pullman National Monument, the president also announced the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado and the Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii, which preserve sites of the World War II Japanese American internment. "Going forward, it's going to be a monument to a painful part of our history so that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past," Obama said. With Thursday's announcement, the president has now declared 15 national monuments since taking office in 2009. Also in attendance were Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner (R), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), and Chicago-area Reps. Robin Kelly (D-Ill.), Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) and Dan Claitor (R-Ill.).

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/02/barack-obama-new-chicago-monuments-cheeky-hashtag-115333.html#ixzz3SEcyfZVWH>

Hawaii

Maui Now: Honouliuli to be Designated as National Monument

February 19th, 2015 - No Disqus Comments

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Facebook Comments - Maui News

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By Wendy Osher



In December, US Senator Brian Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulavec, president of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the hist

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said the designation is a "proud moment" for Honolulu, but also a "bittersweet one." He called the World War II internment camps a "dark still holding memories for Honolulu residents. He said it is an important part of history that should be remembered and learned from.

The monument will be managed by the United States Department of the Interior's National Park Service. Other US sites identified for new National Monument status include National Monument in Colorado.

President Barack Obama will designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument, and is one of three sites in the nation identified as new National Monuments.

Located on the island of O'ahu, White House officials say, "the monument will help tell the story of the American community and the fragility of civil rights during times of conflict."

Honouliuli reportedly opened in 1943 and eventually became the largest and longest-used internment facility for immigrants, and prisoners of war during World War II, according to the White House.

Authorities say the facility once confined 400 civilians and 4,000 prisoners of war.

"The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a sobering reminder of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how we can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice," said US Senator Mazie Hironaka. Fellow US Senator Brian Schatz also released a statement saying, "Honouliuli represents a dark chapter in the lives of Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II."

Broader Monument Stories:

President Obama Designates First National Park in Chicago, Others in Colorado, Hawaii
ABC News // Stephanie Eibbs // February 19, 2015

It's always been a dream of President Obama's to designate a national park in freezing conditions, he joked at a speech today in Chicago. That's what he did. The president announced the designation of the Pullman National Monument in his hometown. It was 6 degrees with winds up to 20 miles per hour in Chicago today, according to the National Weather Service.

Designating monuments, Obama touts conservation as US ideal
AP // Matthew Daly // February 19, 2015

Designating the country's newest national monuments, President Barack Obama said Thursday that protecting places of natural beauty and historic significance is a truly American ideal. He announced the Pullman National Monument in his hometown. The historic South Side neighborhood is where African-American railroad workers won a significant labor agreement in the 1930s that Obama has said is a key part of the city's history.

Obama declares three national monuments, including one in Chicago
Washington Post // Sean Sullivan and Juliet Eilperin // February 19, 2015

President Obama returned to his home town Thursday to dedicate the city's first national park and bring attention to a historic area that was the birthplace of the country's first African American national monument. He used his executive powers to formally unveil the Pullman National Monument and announce two other monuments in Colorado and Hawaii.

On Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 12:10 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Every Kid in a Park:

DNA info: Pullman National Monument Trust Fund Will Be \$100 Million With Emanuel Push



By Mark Konkol on February 18, 2015 11:05pm

@KonkolsKorner

PULLMAN — Back in August, I took to Twitter to guilt Mayor Rahm Emanuel into attending the big community meeting rallying support for bringing a national park to Pullman.

Emanuel promised to talk to President Barack Obama about securing a national designation for my long-struggling South Side historic neighborhood. And he did.



Rahm Emanuel made a last-minute stop at an event promoting the Pullman National Monument.

But a chat with his pal, Barack, wasn't going to be enough to elevate the Pullman neighborhood to national treasure status. Like everything in the national parks system depended on the backing of big money donors.

And that's just what Emanuel — arguably the most accomplished fundraiser Chicago politics has ever known — did to get the president's seal of approval. "It had to be done to seal the deal. He made it a priority, and he was influential in bringing people together to donate," a source involved in Chicago.

So far, the Emanuel-led fundraising push has rounded up nearly \$8 million in donations to the National Park Foundation, the official collection of Chicago philanthropists to give a financial boost to the Pullman National Monument.

The trust fund will be used to convert the dirt-floored Pullman Administration Building's clock tower into a national park visitor center, created to engage school kids and inform tourists about the important role George Pullman's factory town — and all the historic events that shaped American labor and civil rights history.

"It's rare to see the passion that I saw in the eyes of community activists and leaders who have fought for this designation. When I heard the secretary that we would come through," Emanuel told DNAinfo Chicago. "And because of the hard work of a lot of partners, we did. It's the city."

Over the last several decades, many of my neighbors led the spirited push to keep Pullman's historic legacy alive, but what our neighborhood lacked was the support of the Chicago elite. The ones who helped turn an ugly Downtown railroad yard into Millennium Park, a world-class tourist attraction.

And finally, that's what we got from a collection of wealthy folks and philanthropic organizations who decided a decaying factory town in Chicago deserved a national monument.

The first-ever national monument in Chicago got a boost from a "lead gift" from Bryan Traubert of the Pritzker Traubert Foundation and his wife Director Brien O'Brien and his wife Mary Hasten of Chicago; the Union Pacific Foundation; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; the David Hiller Charitable Fund; and National Park Foundation Director Ellen Alberding and her husband Kelly Welsh.

National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis said, "With the support they have pledged, we can move ahead with our vision of a park that tells the development and labor relations stories with visitors from around the world."

But for my neighbors and me, this perfect storm of American history, community perseverance and a huge pile of cash that earned Pullman a national monument is a dream come true.

much more important.

It has afforded us a chance to move ahead with our vision of a living in a more perfect neighborhood — an ever-evolving place where visit the amazing things that can happen when a community fights for a better future by preserving its past.

Chicago Sun Times: Obama creating national monuments in Chicago, Hawaii

Posted: 02/19/2015, 05:47am | Lynn Sweet

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama hits adopted hometown Chicago on Thursday to designate the historic Pullman community a national monument — on a day where he also creates monument

Obama will be in Chicago for just a few hours in the afternoon. But after the Pullman event at the Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy, 250 East 111th St. on the far South Side, Obama has a campaigning for Mayor Rahm Emanuel, his former chief of staff — perhaps vote early or drop in at a phone bank. The city election is next Tuesday.

RELATED: Pullman Historic District plays friendly politics for Obama, Rahm

Of course, it will be noteworthy if the Obama motorcade zips by Washington or Jackson parks, potential sites for the Obama library, museum and academic center. Perhaps Obama will drop by his Kenwood Sun-Times City Hall reporter Fran Spielman has a story looking at whether Obama's visit can help Emanuel boost African-American voter turnout.

Meanwhile, back on the monuments, Pullman has been trying for years to get Congress to put it in the National Park System. Now imprisoned Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. D-Ill. years ago started a drive to get a Durbin D-Ill. and Sen. Mark Kirk R-Ill. and other members of the Illinois delegation backed Pullman. But Congress did not act. So Obama is going to, using his executive authority. On this one, I don't ex

Obama is also launching today his "Every Kid in a Park initiative," according to the White House, a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors.

Pullman, the town rail car tycoon George Pullman built is on the far South Side, where Obama started his career as a community organizer. The Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii is the site of an i War II. Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado is a major recreation center.

Also being announced today: Donations to help fund restoration of Pullman from Chicagoans.

From the release: "Pullman National Monument, which is set to become Chicago's first National Park Service site later today, already has nearly \$8 million in support thanks to gifts received by the Natic nonprofit partner to the National Park Service.

"The gifts will help jumpstart critical projects at the new park including the establishment of a visitor center, educational and experiential exhibits, and programming in the Administrative Clock Tower I about the importance of Pullman to America's collective history. A generous lead gift was provided by National Park Foundation director Bryan Traubert of the Pritzker Traubert Foundation. Major supp O'Brien and Mary Hasten; Union Pacific Foundation; National Park Foundation director Ellen Alberding and Kelly Welsh; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and the Robert R. McCor

Traubert is the husband of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Welsh serves as a Pritzker top deputy in the Commerce Department.

Every Kid

Fourth-graders and families to get free access to national parks Chicago tribune // February 19, 2015

President Barack Obama, during a visit to Chicago Thursday, will announce that all fourth graders and their families will get free admission to national parks and other federal lands for a full statement that the initiative will start with the school year beginning in the fall, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service in 2016.

Pullman

School where Obama to speak has Pullman history Chicago Tribune // Lexy Gross // February 19, 2015

President Barack Obama will speak at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy on Thursday to recognize the historical significance of the Pullman neighborhood — a history in wh building is separated from Pullman by South Cottage Grove Avenue and a railroad track, but has educated generations of Pullman employee descendants and residents. George Pullman, f factories, the housing he provided for his workers and the labor movements his workers ignited in South Side Chicago.

Brown's Canyon

Finally, national monument status for Browns Canyon Denver Post // February 19, 2015

It's been long anticipated, but it's nonetheless appreciated: Browns Canyon is to become a national monument by presidential designation. This is the right move for a special place in Colo activities. The status to be conferred on Browns has been long sought by a bipartisan group of current and former Colorado lawmakers, including Sen. Michael Bennet, former Sen. Mark U

Controversy flares over making Colorado canyon national monument Reuters // Daniel Wallis // February 19, 2015

U.S. President Barack Obama is expected to name three sites around the country this week as national monuments, including a canyon in Colorado where critics of the move denounced ti expected to announce the designation of Browns Canyon, a picturesque gorge in the Rocky Mountains some 90 miles (145 km) west of Colorado Springs, during remarks in Chicago on Th

Obama To Designate New National Monument In Colorado CBS 4 Denver // February 19, 2015

President Barack Obama is designating a new national monument in Colorado for protection as an ecologically significant site. Browns Canyon National Monument is located in Chafee Co and south of Buena Vista. The 21,000-acre site along the Arkansas River is popular for whitewater rafting

President Obama to designate Colorado's Browns Canyon as a national monument
Fox 31 // Chuck Hickey // February 19, 2015

President Obama on Thursday will officially designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a 20,000-acre area surrounding the Arkansas River near the central Colorado whitewater rafting, and it is also home to bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife.

Obama's plan to make Browns Canyon a national monument gets cheers, criticism in Colorado
Colorado Gazette // Lance Benzel // February 18, 2015

Steeped in division for decades, the scenic Browns Canyon section of the Arkansas River is once again troubling political waters. The latest provocation: News that President Barack Obama announced a 21,000-acre area as a national monument, adding a new layer of federal protection while essentially sidestepping years of gridlock. Located between Buena Vista and Salida, Browns Canyon is hot whitewater rafting spot. While conservationists, anglers and commercial river rafters roundly applauded the expected action in a flurry of statements issued on Wednesday, the news brought a fiery response from some

Obama Browns Canyon border 'very similar' to Udall's
Chaffee County Times // Maisie Ramsay // February 19, 2015

Browns Canyon National Monument is on its way to becoming reality through presidential proclamation. White House officials have released a few details on the designation – it will cover boundaries proposed by former U.S. Senator Mark Udall – much beyond that, however, the public will have to wait. While the designation is being announced by President Barack Obama through a presidential proclamation. That's when the proclamation will be made public, and Chaffee County will get its first look at specifics for Browns Canyon National Monument.

Broader Monuments Push:

Obama To Visit Pullman For National Monument Designation
CBS Chicago // February 19, 2015

President Barack Obama is set to visit Chicago to discuss the designation of the Pullman Historic District as a national monument. The White House says Obama will be in his hometown of Chicago to visit Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy.

Obama's day: A short trip to Chicago
USA Today // David Jackson // February 19, 2015

President Obama spends Thursday talking again about violent extremism, designating new national monuments, and taking a short trip to his hometown of Chicago. While in Chicago, Obama will visit the Pullman National Monument, honoring the South Side neighborhood where African-American railroad workers won an historic labor agreement in 1930s.

Obama to designate 3 national monuments.
Boston Globe // Matthew Daly // February 19, 2015

President Obama is designating three places as national monuments for protection as historic or ecologically significant sites, including the Pullman neighborhood in Chicago where African-American railroad workers won an historic labor agreement in 1930s. Obama will be in his hometown Thursday to announce the Pullman National Monument. The South Side neighborhood was built by industrialist George Pullman in the 19th century and was crucial in the African-American labor movement.

Internment camp, industrial town among new national monuments
CNN // Katia Hetter // February 19, 2015

Chicago's historic Pullman District, a World War II internment camp and a section of Colorado's upper Arkansas River Valley will become the nation's newest national monuments this week. Obama will be in his hometown Thursday during a visit to Chicago's Pullman town, a historic industrial site that will become the first National Park Service unit in the city, the official said.

###

On Wed, Feb 18, 2015 at 2:56 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Brown's Canyon:

Colo. Republicans blast 'King Barack' for latest national monument: 'Land grab'
Washington Times // Valerie Richardson // February 18, 2015

Not everyone was thrilled by President Obama's plan to designate another national monument in Colorado, this time a 21,000-acre area around the Arkansas River called Browns Canyon. In an announcement, some Colorado Republicans were fuming over Mr. Obama's repeated use of the Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process and create national monuments on his own.

Lamborn blasts Obama's decision to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument
The Gazette // Mark K. Matthews // February 18, 2015

President Barack Obama this week plans to name Browns Canyon, in central Colorado, a national monument, a designation that adds a new layer of federal protection to the popular spot for whitewater rafting.

Hawaii Honouliuli:

HI Star Advertiser: Obama to designate Honouliuli Internment Camp as national monument

By Melanie Yamaguchi

A significant symbol of Japanese-American history, hidden deep within an overgrown gulch in Kunia, will soon gain more recognition as President Barack Obama plans to designate the Honouliuli, one of Hawaii's largest and longest-used World War II internment camps, was constructed in 1943 to hold more than 300 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Dubbed "jigoku" (hell) as a dark period in history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii and across the country were forced into internment camps under excruciating conditions during World War II.

The overgrown gulch where Honouliuli resides has kept the 120-acre site hidden from view and largely untouched. However, Thursday's designation announcement will mark a major historic preservation effort for National Park Service to help preserve its history and ultimately shed a light on the untold stories of the site.

The announcement has been long anticipated by some members of Congress and other entities – such as the Japanese Cultural Center and Japanese American Citizens League – who have long advocated for the site's preservation. U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono said on an interview on Hawaii News Now Sunrise that many people in Hawaii still don't know there was an internment camp here, but the designation will provide

"My hope is that the site will be preserved and presented in such a way that people will get the sense of what it must've been like, and to also acknowledge that this dark period of our courtold," Hirono said.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, who also helped facilitate designation, commended Obama's announcement, saying Honolulu has finally received the historic recognition it deserves.

"This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we

Obama is expected to make the announcement on Thursday, according to the White House.

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On Wed, Feb 18, 2015 at 1:05 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sharing a variety of clips with this team on all of the proposed monuments - Brown's Canyon, Pullman and Honolulu:

Brown's Canyon:

Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument

Denver Post // Mark Matthews // February 18, 2015

President Barack Obama this week plans to name Browns Canyon, in central Colorado, a national monument, a designation that adds a new layer of federal protection to the popular spot. It will be included in the listing. Obama will make the announcement Thursday in Chicago, where he'll also declare a site in Illinois and one in Hawaii to be national monuments, according to the White House.

Bennet Praises Decision to Designate Browns Canyon a National Monument

Pagosa Daily Post // February 18, 2015

The White House announced today that President Obama will designate Colorado's Browns Canyon as a national monument. The president will use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the area's "outstanding natural and unique beauty that attracts outdoor enthusiasts from around the world to hike, camp, climb, and raft - all of which help generate millions of dollars for local economies. We're grateful to achieve this designation," said Colorado's U.S. Senator Michael Bennet. "Designating this area as a national monument has enjoyed a long history of bipartisan support, including from: Sen. Michael Bennet, the 109th Congress, and most recently by Senator Udall. Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad to hear of these assurances."

Obama will make Browns Canyon a national monument

Denver Business Journal // Caitlin Henndee // February 18, 2015

Browns Canyon will be named a national monument, President Barack Obama announced this week. The destination, located in central Colorado, is a popular kayaking and whitewater rafting destination. The designation will give more federal protection to the canyon, with a federal bureau taking over management of the area.

Browns Canyon in Chaffee County to be designated as a National Monument

ABC 7 Denver // Deb Stanley // February 18, 2015

A popular fishing, rafting and hiking spot is about to become Colorado's newest National Monument. Senator Michael Bennet said the White House has announced that President Obama will make the designation Thursday. The president will use his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to make the designation.

Obama set to declare Browns Canyon a National Monument

Colorado Public Radio // Nathaniel Minor // February 18, 2015

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for rafting and other outdoors activities, will be declared a National Monument later this week. Sen. Michael Bennet said President Barack Obama will make the announcement Thursday. In 2013, Ex-Sen. Mark Udall had introduced a bill for canyon's designation that ultimately failed. Late last year, Bennet, Udall and Gov. John Hickenlooper appealed directly to the White House.

Obama to make Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument

NBC 9 // Blair Shiff // February 18, 2015

President Barack Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday. Browns Canyon is near Salida. "This designation will provide permanent protection for the area's natural and unique beauty," said Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon, said. "Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure. The national monument will provide permanent protection for the area's natural and unique beauty, and will provide a new layer of federal protection to the canyon, with a federal bureau taking over management of the area."

Obama to declare Colorado canyon a national monument

The Hill // Laura Barron-Lopez // February 18, 2015

President Obama will designate Browns Canyon in Colorado as a national monument, the White House said on Wednesday. The monument will protect 21,000 acres of land in Chaffee County. White House official said. Local officials and congressional members have pushed for decades to have the area, which includes granite cliffs, rock outcroppings and diverse wildlife, marked for protection.

Pullman:

President Obama Expected To Discuss Pullman Historic District In Chicago. The AP (2/17) reports that "President Barack Obama is scheduled to visit his hometown this week to discuss the historic Pullman Historic District National Monument."

Also providing coverage are the Chicago Tribune (2/17, 2.42M) and the Chicago Tribune (2/18, 2.42M).

President Obama to Designate Pullman National Monument Thursday

NBC Chicago // Kelly Kane // February 18, 2015

The city has begun preparations for President Barack Obama's Thursday arrival where he will designate Pullman Historic District as a national monument. The designation comes after seven years of planning. Pullman Historic District, between 103rd and 115th streets, was founded by railroad car manufacturer, engineer and industrialist George Pullman in 1880. Pullman became home to porters, factory workers, managers and their families in a time where most laborers lived in very poor conditions.

Pullman Historic District plays friendly politics for Obama, Rahm
Sun Times // Mike Thomas // February 17, 2015

When President Obama visits Chicago on Thursday he'll head to the bucolic nook known as the Pullman Historic District, between 103rd and 115th Streets, and officially designate it a national monument. According to the article, "the designation is intended to bring greater awareness to it and to Hawaii's distinct role in the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese-Americans." But the designation is mostly a boon to Pullman itself — long one of America's most popular destinations — and Illinois tourism in general.

Hawaii:

President Obama To Designate WWII Internment Camp In Hawaii A National Monument. The Los Angeles Times(2/18, 3.49M) reports that "on Thursday, President Obama will designate the site as a national monument." According to the article, "the designation is intended to bring greater awareness to it and to Hawaii's distinct role in the World War II-era incarceration of Japanese-Americans during times of conflict."

Obama to create national monument at Hawaii internment camp
The Hill // Timothy Cama // February 18, 2015

President Obama will designate a former internment camp for Japanese-Americans in Hawaii as a national monument. The Honolulu Internment Camp, near Honolulu on Oahu, will be the site of the hundreds of Japanese-American people who were forcibly kept there during World War II, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Obama to memorialize Japanese internment camp
USA today // David Jackson // February 18, 2015

President Obama will give national monument status to a plot of land in his native Hawaii that served as an internment camp for Japanese Americans detained during World War II. The nationwide internment of Japanese Americans after Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The Los Angeles Times, which first reported on the new national monument, notes that Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the confinement of Japanese Americans.

New national monument on Oahu is a 'gift for future generations'
LA Times // Jay Jones // February 18, 2015

The creation of a national monument on Oahu to remember the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is a "great gift for present and future generations." Carole Hayashino, of Hawaii, applauded the news that the site of the former Honolulu internment camp 25 miles northwest of Honolulu is being acquired by the National Park Service. The center led the effort.

Obama expected to announce Hawaii WWII internment site as national monument
Associated Press // February 18, 2015

President Barack Obama is expected to announce Thursday that the largest World War II internment site in Hawaii will become a national monument.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (<http://is.gd/ZzzaL7>) reports the old Honolulu internment camp on Oahu is expected to be created into a new monument, along with Chicago's historic Pullman

###

On Wed, Feb 18, 2015 at 12:01 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/18/obama-to-declare-national-monuments-thurs>

[hawaii-illinois/](#)

Wash Post: Obama to declare national monuments Thursday in Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois

By Juliet Ellperin February 18 at 11:40 AM



The Arkansas River rolls through Browns Canyon near Salida, Colo. (AP/David Zalubowski)

Call it national monument week: President Obama will designate both Colorado's Browns Canyon and the Honouliuli Internment Camp a Thursday, according to individuals briefed on the matter, in addition to Chicago's [Pullman Park District](#).

Conservation and Asian-American activists have lobbied for years to give the sites in Colorado and Hawaii federal recognition. The Brown around the Arkansas River, a stretch of water that runs through Browns Canyon that boasts both a wild trout fishery and whitewater rafting. The island of Oahu, incarcerated more than 4,000 people as Hawaii's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp.

Throughout Obama's time in office, the administration has sought to protect a combination of places that are [ecologically valuable](#) and his color.

Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, said in a statement, "As a new national mo state and nation."

"On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," she added.

Ryan Bidwell, campaign director with the Conservation Lands Foundation, said in a statement that the two “are places among America’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Obama will travel to Chicago Thursday to make the Pullman declaration in person, while designating the other two monuments remotely.

Neither the White House nor the Interior Department could be reached for comment Wednesday.





Source: Mabbox

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External Statements - Pullman, CO, HI and Every Kid


1 message

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Maria Najera

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 **External Statements - IL.CO.HI.EKIAP 02 19.docx**
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External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

Friday, February 20, 2015

Pullman National Monument, IL.....	2
Elected Officials	2
External Stakeholders	5
Twitter	9
Browns Canyon National Monument, CO	12
Elected Officials	12
External Stakeholders	15
Twitter	37
Honouliuli National Monument, HI.....	39
Elected Officials	39
External Stakeholders	43
Twitter	52
Every Kid in a Park	53
External Stakeholders	53
Twitter	57

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Robin Kelly (D-IL)

Durbin, Kirk, Kelly Applaud President Obama's Announcement That Pullman Historical District Will Become Part Of The National Park System

[CHICAGO, IL] — U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) today applauded President Obama's announcement that a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District will be designated as a National Monument, making it a unit of the National Park System. Durbin, Kirk, and Kelly have worked to secure national park status for the architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

"The future of America's next great urban national landmark lies in the Pullman community's storied past. As an Illinoisan, I am proud to represent this community, which has come together to share its proud legacy of labor and civil rights. And as an American, I look forward to joining visitors from across the country in exploring a new monument to this critical chapter in our national history," **Durbin** said. "I thank Senator Kirk and Representative Kelly for being my partners in this effort, and congratulate the many members of this community who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this unique landmark."

"I fought for this designation with Senator Durbin and Rep. Kelly because regardless of party, it was the right thing to do for our state. As Chicago's first national monument, the Pullman District will bring thousands of tourists to Chicagoland every year, which will help to breathe new life into our local economies," **Kirk** said. "Today I am proud that America's first industrial town founded by George Pullman is receiving the recognition it deserves as a national monument."

"Pullman National Monument will be a crown jewel of the community, a remarkable achievement made possible only through the cooperation and collaboration of leaders from the public and private sectors and the residents of the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, the history and legacy of Pullman will endure for generations to come and people from all over the country will be

encouraged to visit and learn more about the vital role Pullman played in our nation’s labor and civil rights history,” said **Kelly**.

Under this announcement, the Pullman Historic District will become a national monument bounded by 103rd Street to the north, 115th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west, and the Norfolk & Western Rail Line to the east. Initially, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers national parks and monuments, will own the Pullman Factory Complex and the land on which it sits, with the option of acquiring additional property or assets should they be made available. Establishing Pullman as a part of the National Park System will allow for greater coordination of preservation and protection efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

In August, Durbin wrote President Obama urging him to use his authority to designate a portion of Chicago’s Pullman Historic District as a unit of the National Park System. Earlier last year, Durbin, Kirk and Kelly introduced legislation to create the Pullman National Historical Park in the neighborhood’s historical district, an architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America’s railroad, industrial and labor history.

In 2014, the NPS released a study which found that Pullman was “conclusively nationally significant” as a historical site. More than 100 different organizations have endorsed the creation of a national park in Pullman, including city, county and state parks officials; preservationist groups; labor organizations; and tourism advocates. The creation of the national park site will increase jobs and boost Pullman’s economy as a result of added tourism dollars: in 2012, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than 250,000 jobs. Studies show that every dollar invested in national park operations generates ten dollars of local economic activity.

The Pullman site was originally developed by industrialist George Pullman in 1880 and was the first American industrial town. The Pullman site served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States and played an important role in African American and early Civil Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman Porters as well as the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black union. Labor Day was established as a federal holiday following the 1894 Pullman labor strike. The neighborhood is also a well-preserved example of 19th century urban planning and architecture, especially the work of Solon Spencer Beman. The area has been designated as a registered National Historic Landmark District, an Illinois State Landmark, and a City of Chicago Landmark District.

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President's announcement in Chicago.

"Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country," stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. "As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President's use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans."

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God's creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama’s plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

“These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation’s heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes,” said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. “They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument.
<http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/Jkl0X>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Natl Park Foundation

So grateful to everyone who made it possible for #Pullman to become a #NationalPark! Pic: @ILhistory #TBT

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502670652264448>

Robin Kelly (IL-02)

So proud to have the #Pullman Historic District become a National Monument! #IL02

<https://twitter.com/RepRobinKelly/status/568515620033003520>

Trust for Public Land

"Together we can do great things that we can't do alone. That's why I am designating #Pullman as America's newest monument." - @BarackObama

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568506656650186752

Illinois History

On big day for #Pullman, @ArgusBrewery releases "Monumental Lager." Details here: <http://ow.ly/Jl2jZ>
<http://ow.ly/i/8HWc9>

Pullman Foundation

Congratulations to the #Pullman historic district of #Chicago on becoming a #nationalmonument!
<http://bit.ly/1AadcVV> It's OFFICIAL!

<https://twitter.com/pullmanfdn/status/568507207953883136>

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration's Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

"President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone's guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations."

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado's Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado's Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

"Today's comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This monument designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado's bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won't take action to protect these deserving public lands, then the president should."

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was “outraged” by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. “It would promote tourism,” Lamborn said at the time. “There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks.”

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a “top-down, big-government land grab,” bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn’s predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, “the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape.”

3) Rep. Buck’s comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck’s inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

**Trout Unlimited
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation**

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama’s designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

"I'm thrilled," said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. "Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy."

"Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country," said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. "It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come."

"This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen," said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. "Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery."

For years, sportsmen's groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown's important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado's \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado's \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

"Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns," said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. "Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we're committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life."

He added, "We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation."

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded
President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country’s history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O’ahu was Hawai’i’s largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that

some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County," stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. "As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

"The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon," stated former U.S. Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

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Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

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League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why

folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

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Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown’s Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America's wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada's Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

“These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation’s heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes,” said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. “They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the

leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

"My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing."

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

"Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect."

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans' reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

“I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years,” said Reppenhagen. “Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price.”

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

“For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That’s why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon.”

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

“The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future.”

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

“We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It’s a place that’s meaningful to many people, and it’s an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer.”

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- **Outdoor Industry Association**

###

American Whitewater

President Obama Designates Browns Canyon National Monument – Colorado

Salida, CO – On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect over 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado’s Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. American Whitewater and community leaders applaud the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument on Thursday.

“We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon”, said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. “If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress couldn’t”

Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Along with American Whitewater and our members, local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, and county commissioners. .

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded “Gold Medal” status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

The president is using his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Browns Canyon and two other new national monuments in Illinois and Hawaii this week. The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument, but under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service and paddling will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president’s proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall’s legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

Today, after years of work, you can join us in thanking President Obama and Colorado's leaders, for Protecting Browns Canyon!

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>

###

The Conservation Alliance

Introducing Browns Canyon National Monument

On February 19, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, CO. This proclamation preserves 22,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land in Colorado and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing, whitewater boating, hiking and many other outdoor activities. It is one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the country; attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually who contribute \$60 million to the local economy. The area provides critical habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain lions.

The Conservation Alliance funded two organizations working to protect Browns Canyon: Conservation Colorado and Conservation Lands Foundation. We funded Conservation Colorado in 2006 for their effort to designate Browns Canyon as wilderness. After more than fifteen years of attempts to protect Browns Canyon via legislation, the strategy shifted to a national monument campaign. Conservation Lands Foundation, a 2014 grantee, worked with the Obama Administration to bring this national monument campaign across the finish line.

Senator Mark Udall introduced legislation last year to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument, but Congress failed to move the bill. Udall's legislation specified that paddling on the Arkansas would continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation, which followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

The Conservation Alliance applauds President Obama for designating the Browns Canyon National Monument. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support. We thank President Obama for recognizing this special place, and protecting Browns Canyon forever.

100% of our membership dues support conservation opportunities like Browns Canyon. Together, we are making a measurable impact toward protecting threatened wild places in North America.

<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>

###

HECHO

Public Process Leads to Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

HECHO joins many grateful organizations and communities in thanking President Obama for taking action to designate Browns Canyon as the newest National Monument in Colorado.

Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying the Browns Canyon area for generations. For too long, we have witnessed extractive industries such as oil, gas, and mineral development, as well as urban growth, mar the landscapes, pollute watersheds and affect the wildlife that have sustained us for generations.

The lands and waters in Browns Canyon are part of our heritage and are as treasured to us as are the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and other areas throughout the West. Its permanent protection will be a great addition to our National Monument system and will be a place that we can continue to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. As in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, traditional uses will continue and will remain part of the fabric of our culture and traditions.

This designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act is especially fulfilling for the communities that have been engaged in the extensive public input process involving diverse stakeholders such as local businesses and communities, sportsmen, faith communities, youth groups, and elected officials. Although bipartisan legislative attempts to add greater protections to the area had been unsuccessful, strong and consistent public support in partnership with the President's executive action has resulted in greater protection for the region, which is valued for its wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River.

“It was exciting to see that the final public hearing drew hundreds of people, including a large number of Latinos from Denver,” said Rod Torrez of HECHO. Browns Canyon is within easy reach of large communities along the Front Range, and as a national monument, will provide continued access for outdoor recreation, as well as protect the natural surroundings that we all enjoy.

<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>

###

Small Business Majority

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama’s designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he’ll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority’s opinion polling found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What’s more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America’s parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president’s designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>

###

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited praises creation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Calls monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Trout Unlimited today praised President Obama’s designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and other recreational users.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Trout Unlimited leaders called the monument action a “historic victory” for public lands conservation.

“TU members are proud to have played a leading role in protecting this Colorado crown jewel and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations,” said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. “This is a big bipartisan win for our outdoors heritage, and it sends a strong and clear message that hunters and anglers want to keep our public lands public.”

“I’m thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns’ wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon, which includes prime backcountry habitat for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as miles of outstanding Gold Medal wild trout waters in the Arkansas River.

TU and other sportsmen’s groups, including the National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, organized local anglers and hunters to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of this place carried weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>

###

John Gale, Director, backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation NEW

“Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate

the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families.”

###

Colorado Come to Life – Officials Colorado Tourism Site NEW



<http://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments>

###

Environment America NEW

Environment Colorado lauds protecting fishing, rafting in Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for trout fishing and whitewater rafting here in central Colorado, will gain permanent protection tomorrow as a National Monument, following decades of campaigning by outdoor enthusiasts, the tourism industry, and some of the state’s most prominent political leaders.

President Obama’s expected action, revealed this morning in the *Denver Post*, will preserve more than 20,000 rugged canyon acres surrounding the Arkansas River, a beloved area home to gold medal trout, black bears, and stunning vistas. Kim Stevens, Environment Colorado issued the following statement in response:

“Places like Browns Canyon are a big part of what makes Colorado so special. That’s why tens of thousands of Coloradans from all walks of life called for the permanent protection of this incredible landscape. That’s why we’re thrilled future generations will have the chance for the same spectacular views and opportunities to raft, hike, and fish that we enjoy [in the canyon] today.

“President Obama, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet all get credit for safeguarding this special place. Everyone who signed a petition, attended a meeting, or made a phone call to protect Browns Canyon has a lot to be proud of, too.

“Environment Colorado looks forward to continuing to work with the administration and Congress to keep pristine public lands off limits to development, mining, drilling, and pollution. Future generations of Americans and the wildlife that depend on these ecosystems deserve nothing less.”

Kim Stevens, Campaign Director, Environment Colorado

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Twitter

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Conservation Alliance

Thank you @whitehouse for designating Browns Canyon National Monument! #BrownsCanyon
#monumentsmatter

<https://twitter.com/conservationall/status/568497440166453250>

Rep Ed Perlmutter

Glad to see #BrownsCanyon become a #NationalMonument today. TY @MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO &
@hickforco for your work

<https://twitter.com/RepPerlmutter/status/568483502930464769>

Jamie Williams (TWS)

Check out stunning photos of #BrownsCanyon @Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/1ALFhVL> Thank you
@BarackObama for making this place a Monument!

<https://twitter.com/JWilliamsTWS/status/568457816412987392>

NM Green Chamber

Thanks @WhiteHouse @forestsservice @BLMNational for recognizing the importance of #BrownsCanyon
for future generations! #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568546007333474304>

ConserveNM

.@BarackObama announcing #Pullman, #Honouliuli & #BrownsCanyon Nat'l. Monuments.
#MonumentsForAll #Inspiring #History

<https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status/568506630427377664>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

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Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President’s executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

###

Governor David Ige

"President Obama's action ensures that generations to come will be able to visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp and learn about the experiences of persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to stay there during the war. The monument will remind all who visit of the terrible injustice these families endured, even while many of their husbands, sons and brothers were fighting for the United States."

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell

"The preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument is a proud moment for Honolulu, but also a bittersweet one. World War II internment camps are a dark segment of our nation's history, and the Honouliuli camp still holds memories for Honolulu residents during wartime, life in the camp, and the courage and bravery that internees displayed even as their loyalty to our country was being challenged. It is an important part of history that should always be remembered and learned from, and I want to thank the President for making this possible. As a National Monument, Honouliuli's significance will be forever honored."

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today's presidential designation of three new national monuments.

"Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation's history are among every president's greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

"Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and

Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President’s designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and

state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O'ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai'i. Built on 160 acres in west O'ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or "hell valley." Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O'ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai'i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai'i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai'i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

"As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i**.

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai'i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai'i's congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i since 1998 and rediscovered the

location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

"On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site."

"As our country's premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country's history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today's announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park

Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site's resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors."

"NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service's study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality."

"As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country's 'best idea' a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history."

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai'i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama's Designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama's designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation's complex history associated with civil rights," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "President Obama's designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors."

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai'i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai'i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents – eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America's most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) NEW

JACL Applauds the Inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System

Washington D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) applauds [President Barack Obama's designation of Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument](#). The site, located in a gulch in central Oahu, was used during World War II to imprison Japanese community leaders and their families. The monument will preserve a forgotten but important part of American history about the treatment of thousands of Americans living in Hawaii.

"I am delighted to learn that the Honouliuli incarceration site has been added to the National Park System as a National Historic Monument. We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the significance of the site as a component of World War II and as the site related to the forcible imprisonment of Japanese and other Americans. As the longest operating World War II Japanese American confinement site in Hawaii, Honouliuli represents a unique chapter in American history and a very important lesson in civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. This inclusion in the National Park System will ensure that the story of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II will continue to be told and remembered," said JACL National President David Lin.

"Today, the President opened the windows so healing winds can blow on a place that was once called 'hell valley.' Years ago, droves of innocent men were rounded up and placed in prison centers by the military because they were Japanese priests, teachers, and community leaders. Their incarceration remained a secret because of the unwarranted shame they bore for a crime they did not commit. On the

73rd anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order authorizing the internment, the government has acknowledged this story by creating a learning place where discussions about tolerance and diversity can be elevated,” stated JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Honolulu, Honouliuli is the site of the largest and longest used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. Those of Japanese ancestry made up over a third of the population of Hawaii in 1941. In contrast to the mass incarceration taking place on the mainland, Japanese American community leaders and those with close cultural or economic ties to Japan were selectively targeted and detained throughout Hawaii.

The detentions began immediately following the strike on Pearl Harbor, with estimates of over 350 Issei and Nisei being arrested in the first 48 hours following the attack, and over 2,200 imprisoned by the end of the war. These people were detained at a number of sites across the Hawaiian Islands, with Honouliuli becoming the largest.

Honouliuli was opened in March of 1943 to hold U.S. Citizens and resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, as well as Japanese prisoners of war. The area housed over 150 buildings, guard towers, and tents on the 160 acre site, in addition to approximately 320 internees. Many of these people were detained for the duration of the war – a period of more than 3 years – and none were ever charged with a crime.

Honouliuli was closed in 1946 following the last of the prisoner of war repatriations and the site was sold as farmland. The site and its history were largely forgotten until the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) began to research and document Honouliuli’s history in the 1990’s, leading to the re-discovery of the site in 2002. Since then, a number of organizations, including the JACL Honolulu Chapter, JCCH, the University of Hawaii, and Monsanto Hawaii, have worked to preserve and interpret the site in an effort to educate the public about a largely unknown chapter of Hawaiian and American history.

In 2009, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to review Honouliuli for possible inclusion to the National Park System. In 2011, JACL passed a national resolution supporting these efforts and began meeting with members of Congress and other government officials to inform them of the historic and cultural significance of the site and to garner their support for National Park status. In December 2014, a group of staffers from the JCCH and Honolulu JACL visited officials in Washington D.C. to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System.

JACL is dedicated to securing the civil and human rights of all Americans and preserving the historical and cultural legacy of the Japanese American community. The preservation and interpretation of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites ensures that their important and distinct place in American history will continue to educate future generations against repeating injustices of the past.

<http://www.jacl.org/news/>

###

Twitter

Matt Lee-Ashley (CAP)

MT @paulsparrow1 #WWII Internment camp in #Hawaii to become national monument. #Honouliuli
#MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/MLeeAshley/status/568057959680491520>

NM Green Chamber

Mahalo #POTUS and @SecretaryJewell for protecting #Honouliuli Internment Site as unit of the
@natlparkservice. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568543970382315520>

Travel Leaders **NEW**

#Obama made #Honouliuli Internment Camp a #nationalmonument. It's a former #POW #WWII
camp.(Photos:... <http://instagram.com/p/zVa8meBcsj/>

<https://twitter.com/TravelLeaders/status/568854511823015936>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

Outdoor Industry Association

President’s Announcement on “Every Kid in a Park” and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama’s announcement today promoting the new “Every Kid in a Park” initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America’s “best idea,” our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America’s youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president’s call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind “Every Kid in a Park,” including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

“We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it’s what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative,” said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. “We accept the president’s challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children’s interaction with the outdoors a national priority.”

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country’s newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual

contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every

Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest." - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

"We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives." - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

"Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America's public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards." - **Collin O'Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

"The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America's public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation's natural resources." - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

"The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!" - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

"Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls' understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them." - **Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

National Wildlife Foundation

Collin O'Mara in response to President Obama's announcement of a new goal to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or refuge:

"We can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

Boy at OverlookThe National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliated organizations enthusiastically support the goal put forth by President Obama today to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or wildlife refuge in the coming year. Our public lands are an important part of the American story and children receive immense benefit from learning about and directly experiencing nature, wildlife, the outdoors and public land areas.

The need for such a goal has never been higher as America's children now spend so much of their time staying indoors staring at the screens of electronic devices, watching television and playing electronic games. Research shows that the average child today spends a daily eight hours connected to such devices and spends a small fraction of their time engaged in outdoor play and nature study. This results in a lost affinity for nature, our public lands and this unique aspect of American heritage.

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America's parents, educators and child care providers to give America's 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges," says Collin O'Mara, NWF's President and CEO, "we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation provides programming to one third of all of America's 4th graders through its Ranger Rick publications, its Eco Schools USA and Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats, parent education programs and partnerships with park and wildlife agencies—all of which will directly support the President's new goal.

The National Wildlife Federation working with its partner organizations, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Recreation Coalition, the Federal Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), and our 49 state and territorial affiliates has developed nature and outdoor programs that offer 5 million children opportunities for weekly and daily nature play. Having this new presidential goal of planning for every fourth grader in America to visit a public land park, forest or refuge will support and expand on our success in reconnecting kids and families with nature and will help children at an impressionable age to actually experience some of our most beautiful and compelling natural and scenic places.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Get-Outside/2015/02-19-15-Collin-OMara-in-response-to-President-announcement-to-have-every-4th-grader-in-America.aspx>

###

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell said. "Nature is the best teacher, and our parks provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children." – WaPo Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

HECHO

Teaching Kids & Getting Them Outdoors: It's Part of Our Heritage

The following post by Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) comes at a timely moment. Today President Obama announces the "Every Kid in a Park Initiative," which aims to bring every child in the nation into the parks and public lands. It includes free admission for one full year for all fourth grade kids and their families into the National Parks. HECHO supports this initiative! (Click on the link to read the blog post)

<http://www.hechoonline.com/teaching-kids-getting-them-outdoors-its-part-of-our-heritage/>

Twitter

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks and public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>

Outdoor Industry

BREAKING: @BarackObama to announce free entrance to US public lands for 1 year for all 4th graders! #EveryKidinaPark

<https://twitter.com/OIA/status/568428622790262784>

Tommy Caldwell (Athlete)

Today the President announced the initiative "Every Kid in a Park". My wife and I are passionate about getting... <http://fb.me/1zBTzCqO9>

<https://twitter.com/tommycaldwell1/status/568515545521197056>

Patagonia

We agree with the @OIA - The Every Kid in a Park Initiative is good news. Read on:

<http://pat.ag/17hHKtE>

<https://twitter.com/patagonia/status/568501553767657472>

Trust for Public Land

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>

Conrad Anker (Athlete)

Yeah ~ President [Barack Obama](#). Thanks for recognizing the importance of our wild heritage and the benefit it has to our nation. Free access for a year to public lands for all 4th graders will get the future leaders off the digital rabbit warren and into the wild. [#everykidinapark](#) Add on Browns Canyon and today is a great day for the outdoor community. Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conrad-Anker/143199022383600?sk=info&tab=page_info

Kevin Jorgeson (Professional Climber)

How cool! @BarackObama announces year of free admission to all Ntl Parks for 4th graders, plus new ntl monuments: <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/kjorgeson/status/568518926037954561>

Range of Light

Thanks to President @BarackObama for your leadership in making this happen!
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/> ... #EveryKidinaPark @WhiteHouse #leadership

<https://twitter.com/rangeoflight/status/568511802432053248>

Latino Outdoors

"Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments | The White House" <http://wh.gov/ibeLg> @whitehouse

<https://twitter.com/LatinoOutdoors/status/568512483117305858>

Outdoor Afro

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/568478382540898304>

Girl Scouts

Thank you @BarackObama for ensuring kids across America can visit a park! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark!
=> <http://wp.me/p3qC97-i6>

<https://twitter.com/girlscouts/status/568468631367094273>

Collin O'Mara (NWF)

Today's a great day to be a 4th grader! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark ! <http://owl.li/Jlmis> Thank you @BarackObama #FindYourPark

https://twitter.com/Collin_OMara/status/568511612438446080

LCV

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568506626648502272>

National Park Trust

Shout out to @BarackObama for #EveryKidInAPark initiative! Tell us what you're doing on 5/16 for #KidstoParks Day! <http://ow.ly/Jlcaf>

<https://twitter.com/NatParkTrust/status/568504259467206656>

Natl Park Foundation

.@BarackObama just announced #EveryKidInAPark! Find out how you can take part at <http://prks.org/KidsInParks> !

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502164345237504>

MayorMatthewMarchant- City of Carrollton, TX) NEW

My rising 4th grdr will be pumped! "@johnblairindc: Pres. to announce that 4th graders & families will get in free to public lands for 1 yr!"

<https://twitter.com/MatthewMarchant/status/568439335604731905>



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

1 message

Carrillo, Francisco <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 1:03 PM
To: Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FYI

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

From: Robert Garcia <rgarcia@cityprojectca.org>

Date: Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 11:29 AM

Subject: President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

To: Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>

This email is also available online at: <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/35621>



Follow us:

Equal Justice, Democracy, and Livability for All

February 19, 2015

President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

Since President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains Monument in October 2014, the White House has demonstrated a renewed commitment to environmental and green justice.

Every child has the right to the simple joy of playing in the park. Under President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative, the National Park Service will give all fourth graders and their families free admission to national parks and other federal lands for a full year. The President also designated new national monuments.

President Obama recognizes that too many children, especially children of color, don't have access to parks where they can play, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment. This is an issue of social justice, health, and economic vitality for all. It's not enough to have awesome natural wonders. You have to be able to access them. Green justice is about working with communities to open up parks and our heritage to everybody — young and old, Latino, Asian, Native American, black, white — to make sure everybody can enjoy these rights. Every Kid in a Park will award transportation grants for school children to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Transit to Trails provides opportunities for park-poor, income-poor communities to learn about water, land, wildlife and cultural history, and engage in healthy physical activity. Transit to Trails increases access to national parks, monuments, and other park lands. Underserved communities lack close-to-home green space, monuments, transportation, and opportunities to reach recreation and natural resources. Transit to Trails is a best practice to get people to the parks now, and prepare young people to be the stewards of our natural heritage tomorrow. Transit to Trails helps reduce traffic congestion and parking problems, improve air quality, and reduce polluted water run-off into rivers and the ocean by providing accessible public

transportation. President Obama agrees with the National Park Service, the California Parks Forward Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), US Army Corps of Engineers about the Transit to Trails program by Anahuak Youth Sports Association, and The City Project, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Transit to Trails is a best practice for taking inner city youth and their families and friends on fun, educational, and healthy park, river, beach, and mountain trips.



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell with children from Anahuak Youth Sports Association and The City Project

We celebrate President Obama designating three new monuments that honor the diverse history of our nation, and promote access to healthy, outdoor recreation for all: Honouliuli, Pullman, and the Browns Canyon landscape and river corridor.

Honouliuli commemorates the fragility of civil rights, and the incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans for three years during World War II. The designation on February 19 comes 73 years to the day after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066. The order authorized the evacuation of over 100,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, to isolated, fenced, and guarded internment camps. The United States Supreme Court upheld this intentional discrimination against Japanese Americans in *Korematsu v United States*. A federal district court threw out Fred Korematsu’s conviction 40 years later, concluding that “today the decision in *Korematsu* lies overruled in the court of history.”

Pullman, on Chicago’s Far South Side, honors the formation of the first African-American labor union, development of the first “company town,” and the role of railroads in the nation’s industrial past.

Honouliuli and Pullman, like Manzanar National Monument, are best practice examples to celebrate the nation’s diversity faithfully, completely, and accurately, and to stimulate and provoke a greater understanding of, and dialogue on, civil rights, democracy, and freedom.

The City Project has been working for 15 years to broaden access to parks and open space for inner-city residents and to fight childhood obesity by guaranteeing that students get enough physical education. We are profoundly grateful to President Barack Obama and the National Park Service for Kid in a Park, and for diversifying national monuments.

–Robert García, Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project



The flags from the ten Japanese American internment camps at Rohwer, Serome, Amache, Heart Mountain, Minidota, Topaz, Poston, Gila, Tule Lake, Manzanar



Please consider making a secure, online, tax-deductible donation to The City Project to help promote equal justice, democracy, and livability for all.

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linkedin.com/in/robertgarcia2

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Pullman, CO, HI and Every Kid - External Statements

1 message

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>



Wed, Feb 25, 2015 at 5:19 PM

Attached is the list in its entirety and the new statements.

Maria Najera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
☎ 202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
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2 attachments

-  **External Statements - IL.CO.HI.EKIAP 02 19.docx**
3048K
-  **External Statements - Updates 02 25 15.docx**
2964K

External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

Friday, February 20, 2015

Pullman National Monument, IL.....	2
Elected Officials	2
External Stakeholders	5
Twitter	13
Browns Canyon National Monument, CO	16
Elected Officials	16
External Stakeholders	19
Twitter	42
Honouliuli National Monument, HI.....	44
Elected Officials	44
External Stakeholders	48
Twitter	58
Every Kid in a Park	59
External Stakeholders	59
Twitter	67

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Robin Kelly (D-IL)

Durbin, Kirk, Kelly Applaud President Obama's Announcement That Pullman Historical District Will Become Part Of The National Park System

[CHICAGO, IL] — U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) today applauded President Obama's announcement that a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District will be designated as a National Monument, making it a unit of the National Park System. Durbin, Kirk, and Kelly have worked to secure national park status for the architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

"The future of America's next great urban national landmark lies in the Pullman community's storied past. As an Illinoisan, I am proud to represent this community, which has come together to share its proud legacy of labor and civil rights. And as an American, I look forward to joining visitors from across the country in exploring a new monument to this critical chapter in our national history," **Durbin** said. "I thank Senator Kirk and Representative Kelly for being my partners in this effort, and congratulate the many members of this community who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this unique landmark."

"I fought for this designation with Senator Durbin and Rep. Kelly because regardless of party, it was the right thing to do for our state. As Chicago's first national monument, the Pullman District will bring thousands of tourists to Chicagoland every year, which will help to breathe new life into our local economies," **Kirk** said. "Today I am proud that America's first industrial town founded by George Pullman is receiving the recognition it deserves as a national monument."

"Pullman National Monument will be a crown jewel of the community, a remarkable achievement made possible only through the cooperation and collaboration of leaders from the public and private sectors and the residents of the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, the history and legacy of Pullman will endure for generations to come and people from all over the country will be

encouraged to visit and learn more about the vital role Pullman played in our nation’s labor and civil rights history,” said **Kelly**.

Under this announcement, the Pullman Historic District will become a national monument bounded by 103rd Street to the north, 115th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west, and the Norfolk & Western Rail Line to the east. Initially, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers national parks and monuments, will own the Pullman Factory Complex and the land on which it sits, with the option of acquiring additional property or assets should they be made available. Establishing Pullman as a part of the National Park System will allow for greater coordination of preservation and protection efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

In August, Durbin wrote President Obama urging him to use his authority to designate a portion of Chicago’s Pullman Historic District as a unit of the National Park System. Earlier last year, Durbin, Kirk and Kelly introduced legislation to create the Pullman National Historical Park in the neighborhood’s historical district, an architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America’s railroad, industrial and labor history.

In 2014, the NPS released a study which found that Pullman was “conclusively nationally significant” as a historical site. More than 100 different organizations have endorsed the creation of a national park in Pullman, including city, county and state parks officials; preservationist groups; labor organizations; and tourism advocates. The creation of the national park site will increase jobs and boost Pullman’s economy as a result of added tourism dollars: in 2012, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than 250,000 jobs. Studies show that every dollar invested in national park operations generates ten dollars of local economic activity.

The Pullman site was originally developed by industrialist George Pullman in 1880 and was the first American industrial town. The Pullman site served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States and played an important role in African American and early Civil Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman Porters as well as the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black union. Labor Day was established as a federal holiday following the 1894 Pullman labor strike. The neighborhood is also a well-preserved example of 19th century urban planning and architecture, especially the work of Solon Spencer Beman. The area has been designated as a registered National Historic Landmark District, an Illinois State Landmark, and a City of Chicago Landmark District.

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

City Council, City of Chicago - Anthony Beale, Alderman, Ninth Ward NEW

"Steeped in the history of American industry, labor, urban planning and the African-American civil rights movement, few locations preserve these stories as evocatively as the Pullman community. Pullman's narrative is America's story. In addition, a national park would create the opportunity to access much needed federal investment in transportation and business growth, shops, stores and restaurants for visitors and residents alike. Once there is a national park at Pullman you're going to see more great things happening in the Roseland and Pullman communities."

###

External Stakeholders

Historic Pullman Foundation | Michael A. Shymanski, AIA, President NEW

"The designation of Pullman as a national monument culminates a five decade grassroots effort of the Pullman Civic Organization and the Historic Pullman Foundation to preserve and restore the community's place in American history and to attract the national and international attention that this important landmark deserves. We are thrilled that President Obama will designate Pullman as part of the National Park System and we look forward to working with the National Park Service and others in creating a great urban national park in Chicago."

###

Illinois Labor History Society - Larry Spivak, President NEW

"President Obama's historic action in authorizing national monument status for the Pullman District comes at a time when honoring the struggles of all working people to keep a vibrant middle class is needed more than ever. The history of the Pullman Porters, the workers who built the Pullman Palace cars and the courageous actions taken to improve their working conditions for themselves, their families and their community will now be honored as part of our national heritage. Thank you Mr. President for helping us remember."

###

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives - David Doig, President NEW

"Designating Pullman a national park will be a huge boost for the economy of the neighborhood. It will bring tourism spending, the opportunity to access federal infrastructure dollars, and private investment,

all of which are much needed here. A lot of work is already underway including new investment in retail, industrial and residential development. The national park will build on this progress and further bolster and encourage new investment.”

###

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) - Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director NEW

“The recognition of the Pullman National Monument is another important step in honoring the lives those diverse groups of working people, labor unions, and political activists who fought diligently to demonstrate that there is dignity of work. In doing such their legacies have strengthened the narrative of our national history. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History applauds President Obama on the creation of this monument. Its presence will insure that the stories of people like A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, the men and women of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and its auxiliaries, and the countless others who worked tirelessly to integrate the missions of the labor and civil rights movements of so many years ago will now have an opportunity to forever remain part of our national discourse on race and political activism in the 20th century.

###

PullmanArts - Ann Alspaugh, Chair NEW

Thank you President Obama for bringing the National Park Service to Pullman and your support of the important work many residents have been doing for decades. We in the community have worked countless hours to restore Pullman's unique architecture, to educate the public, and to enhance and develop community assets such as the landscape gardens, arts programming and pride of place look forward to sharing this rich history with all the new visitors when Pullman becomes a national monument.”

###

Pullman Civic Organization - Tom McMahon, President NEW

“The Pullman Civic Organization and its members are elated over the news that Pullman will become a National Park. This represents the hard work of number of community residents, local and national political leaders and many other organizations who see the development and preservation of this location as an important facet of our history.”

###

Pullman Wheelworks Residents - Marie Robinson, President NEW

“Thanks to President Obama, the stories of our Pullman community will be shared with the world in a way they haven’t been before. Pullman as a national park will be important because it will bring revenue to the area and job opportunities for the people of the community, and this could be life-changing for

many of our neighbors. I'm excited to see a Pullman National Monument because of the new-found pride that people will have in their neighborhood."

###

National Parks Conservation Association - Lynn McClure, Midwest Senior Director NEW

"The people who are part of the Pullman legacy helped to shape America as we know it today. Pullman workers fought for fair labor conditions in the late 19th century and the Pullman porters helped advance America's Civil Rights movement. The designation of Pullman as a national monument will further showcase the commitment of President Obama to diversify our national parks and preserve the places that define who we are as a nation. Thanks to the President, Pullman's story will soon be remembered and recounted for the millions of people that visit America's national parks each year."

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation - Stephanie Meeks, President and CEO NEW

"We applaud President Obama for this decisive action on behalf of one of America's most important historic places. From industrialization to the labor and civil rights movements, Pullman played a significant role in American history during the late 19th and early 20th centuries."

###

The National Trust for Historic Preservation **NEW**

**Thank you President Obama
Secretary Jewell and Director Jarvis
for protecting our American history at Pullman**

The Pullman National Monument will boost our local economy and provide permanent protection for an irreplaceable part of our cultural heritage. Thanks to your efforts, the important Civil Rights, labor, and industrial history of Pullman will continue to inspire the children and grandchildren of Chicago and the nation.



- Bielenberg Historic Pullman House Foundation
- Bronzeville Historical Society
- Calumet Area Industrial Commission
- Chatham Business Association
- Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation
- Chicago Urban League
- Developing Communities Project, Inc.
- Far South Side Community Development Corporation
- Friends of the Pullman State Historic Site
- Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce
- Historic Pullman Foundation
- Historic Pullman Garden Club
- Landmarks Illinois
- Mercy Housing Lakefront
- NAACP Chicago Southside Branch
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- Preservation Chicago
- PullmanArts
- Pullman Civic Organization
- Pullman Urban Gardeners
- Pullman Wheelworks Residents
- Rosemoor Community Association
- Salem Baptist Church of Chicago
- Southeast Environmental Task Force
- South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association

Paid for by National Trust for Historic Preservation
Photo courtesy National Trust for Historic Preservation/Cynthia Lynn

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama’s Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President’s action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national

monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at:

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," **said Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society.** "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for

listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument.
<http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/JklOX>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Natl Park Foundation

So grateful to everyone who made it possible for #Pullman to become a #NationalPark! Pic: @ILhistory #TBT

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502670652264448>

Robin Kelly (IL-02)

So proud to have the #Pullman Historic District become a National Monument! #IL02

<https://twitter.com/RepRobinKelly/status/568515620033003520>

Trust for Public Land

"Together we can do great things that we can't do alone. That's why I am designating #Pullman as America's newest monument." - @BarackObama

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568506656650186752

Illinois History

On big day for #Pullman, @ArgusBrewery releases "Monumental Lager." Details here: <http://ow.ly/Jl2jZ>
<http://ow.ly/i/8HWc9>

Pullman Foundation

Congratulations to the #Pullman historic district of #Chicago on becoming a #nationalmonument!
<http://bit.ly/1AadcVV> It's OFFICIAL!

<https://twitter.com/pullmanfdn/status/568507207953883136>

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration's Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

"President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone's guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations."

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Healing Waters Family Center - Joseito Velasquez, Pastor NEW

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife. The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

###

Conservation Colorado - Pete Maysmith, Executive Director NEW

"We thank President Obama for acting now to protect Browns Canyon, and honoring the work of so many to protect this striking place. This new national monument is a culmination of former Senator Mark Udall's work and so many others to protect this gem of the Arkansas River," said Pete Maysmith, Conservation Colorado's Executive Director. "All Coloradans can be proud of what we have accomplished together."

###

Sierra Club - David Scott, President, and John Stansfield, Volunteer, Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter NEW

"We applaud President Obama for using his authority to protect this national treasure. The unique combination of water, wild landscape and lower elevation ridges at Browns Canyon provide four-season opportunities for people to get outside, as well as important wildlife habitat. Browns Canyon is a wonderful addition to our nation's conservation legacy; we look forward to President Obama's continued work to secure our outdoor heritage.

###

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado's Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado's Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

"Today's comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This monument designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado's bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won't take action protect these deserving public lands, then the president should."

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was "outraged" by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. "It would promote tourism," Lamborn said at the time. "There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks."

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a "top-down, big-government land grab," bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn's predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, "the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape."

3) Rep. Buck's comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck's inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

**Trout Unlimited
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation**

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

“I'm thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

“Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country,” said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. “It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come.”

“This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen,” said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. “Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of

elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama’s Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President’s action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The

rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing

opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

“Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County,” stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. “As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children.”

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon,” stated former U.S.

Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

###

Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what

we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America’s wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada’s Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

“My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by

offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing.”

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

“Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect.”

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans' reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

"I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years," said Reppenhagen. "Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price."

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

"For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That's why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon."

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

"The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future."

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

"We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It's a place that's meaningful to many people, and it's an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer."

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- **Outdoor Industry Association**

###

American Whitewater

President Obama Designates Browns Canyon National Monument – Colorado

Salida, CO – On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect over 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado’s Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. American Whitewater and community leaders applaud the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument on Thursday.

“We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon”, said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. “If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress couldn’t”

Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Along with American Whitewater and our members, local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, and county commissioners. .

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded “Gold Medal” status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

The president is using his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Browns Canyon and two other new national monuments in Illinois and Hawaii this week. The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument, but

under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service and paddling will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

Today, after years of work, you can join us in thanking President Obama and Colorado's leaders, for Protecting Browns Canyon!

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>

###

The Conservation Alliance

Introducing Browns Canyon National Monument

On February 19, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, CO. This proclamation preserves 22,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land in Colorado and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing, whitewater boating, hiking and many other outdoor activities. It is one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the country; attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually who contribute \$60 million to the local economy. The area provides critical habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain lions.

The Conservation Alliance funded two organizations working to protect Browns Canyon: Conservation Colorado and Conservation Lands Foundation. We funded Conservation Colorado in 2006 for their effort to designate Browns Canyon as wilderness. After more than fifteen years of attempts to protect Browns Canyon via legislation, the strategy shifted to a national monument campaign. Conservation Lands Foundation, a 2014 grantee, worked with the Obama Administration to bring this national monument campaign across the finish line.

Senator Mark Udall introduced legislation last year to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument, but Congress failed to move the bill. Udall's legislation specified that paddling on the Arkansas would continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation, which followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

The Conservation Alliance applauds President Obama for designating the Browns Canyon National Monument. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support. We thank President Obama for recognizing this special place, and protecting Browns Canyon forever.

100% of our membership dues support conservation opportunities like Browns Canyon. Together, we are making a measurable impact toward protecting threatened wild places in North America.

<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>

###

HECHO

Public Process Leads to Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

HECHO joins many grateful organizations and communities in thanking President Obama for taking action to designate Browns Canyon as the newest National Monument in Colorado.

Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying the Browns Canyon area for generations. For too long, we have witnessed extractive industries such as oil, gas, and mineral development, as well as urban growth, mar the landscapes, pollute watersheds and affect the wildlife that have sustained us for generations.

The lands and waters in Browns Canyon are part of our heritage and are as treasured to us as are the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and other areas throughout the West. Its permanent protection will be a great addition to our National Monument system and will be a place that we can continue to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. As in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, traditional uses will continue and will remain part of the fabric of our culture and traditions.

This designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act is especially fulfilling for the communities that have been engaged in the extensive public input process involving diverse stakeholders such as local businesses and communities, sportsmen, faith communities, youth groups, and elected officials. Although bipartisan legislative attempts to add greater protections to the area had been unsuccessful, strong and consistent public support in partnership with the President's executive action has resulted in greater protection for the region, which is valued for its wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River.

"It was exciting to see that the final public hearing drew hundreds of people, including a large number of Latinos from Denver," said Rod Torrez of HECHO. Browns Canyon is within easy reach of large communities along the Front Range, and as a national monument, will provide continued access for outdoor recreation, as well as protect the natural surroundings that we all enjoy.

<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>

###

Small Business Majority

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he'll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority's opinion polling found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What's more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America's parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president's designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>

###

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited praises creation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Calls monument designation 'historic victory' for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Trout Unlimited today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and other recreational users.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Trout Unlimited leaders called the monument action a "historic victory" for public lands conservation.

"TU members are proud to have played a leading role in protecting this Colorado crown jewel and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations," said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. "This is a big bipartisan win for our outdoors heritage, and it sends a strong and clear message that hunters and anglers want to keep our public lands public."

“I’m thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns’ wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon, which includes prime backcountry habitat for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as miles of outstanding Gold Medal wild trout waters in the Arkansas River.

TU and other sportsmen’s groups, including the National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, organized local anglers and hunters to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of this place carried weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>

###

John Gale, Director, backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation NEW

“Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families.”

###

Colorado Come to Life – Officials Colorado Tourism Site NEW

www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments

By Colorado.com Staff Writer
Updated: 2/19/2015

Browns Canyon National Monument
Why Go? One of the nation's most popular locations for whitewater rafting, Browns Canyon was just named a national monument in 2015. This Arkansas River-carved beauty also hosts fishers, wildlife watchers, hikers and more throughout the year.
Don't Miss: The canyon is a great place to see bighorn sheep (Colorado's state mammal), elk, deer, eagles, falcons and many other wildlife species.
Around the Monument: Part of the [Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#), the region around Browns Canyon offers up spectacular opportunities for camping, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, hiking, OHV riding, rockclimbing and many more activities. The [Catalpa Peak's Scenic & Historic Byway](#) is a great way to explore the area, including many scenic vistas amid the state's densest concentration of [fourteeners](#).
Nearby Cities: [Buena Vista](#), [Salida](#)

Colorado National Monument
Why Go? Picturesque Colorado lives here. Don't blink,

For 1 Hot Vacation - Just Add Water
 Healing Waters Resort & Spa | Pagosa Springs
 First out what the area is all about? Join us for a relaxing getaway and enjoy some spa! time in our 100% mineral water pool, hot tub and bathhouse.
 More

Rich in History & outdoor activities
 Marble Colorado - Marble Cynette River Chamber
 Home of the white marble, a national wilderness area, wilderness. Hit a fish jeep explore, stop lodge site —

<http://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments>

###

Environment America NEW

Environment Colorado lauds protecting fishing, rafting in Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for trout fishing and whitewater rafting here in central Colorado, will gain permanent protection tomorrow as a National Monument, following decades of campaigning by outdoor enthusiasts, the tourism industry, and some of the state’s most prominent political leaders.

President Obama’s expected action, revealed this morning in the *Denver Post*, will preserve more than 20,000 rugged canyon acres surrounding the Arkansas River, a beloved area home to gold medal trout, black bears, and stunning vistas. Kim Stevens, Environment Colorado issued the following statement in response:

“Places like Browns Canyon are a big part of what makes Colorado so special. That’s why tens of thousands of Coloradans from all walks of life called for the permanent protection of this incredible landscape. That’s why we’re thrilled future generations will have the chance for the same spectacular views and opportunities to raft, hike, and fish that we enjoy [in the canyon] today.

“President Obama, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet all get credit for safeguarding this special place. Everyone who signed a petition, attended a meeting, or made a phone call to protect Browns Canyon has a lot to be proud of, too.

“Environment Colorado looks forward to continuing to work with the administration and Congress to keep pristine public lands off limits to development, mining, drilling, and pollution. Future generations of Americans and the wildlife that depend on these ecosystems deserve nothing less.”

Kim Stevens, Campaign Director, Environment Colorado

###

Twitter

LCV NEW

It's official: #BrownsCanyon is America's newest #NationalMonument and permanently protected for all to raft, hike, fish, camp and explore

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568458949441290240>

pew environment NEW

Why our new national monument in Colorado is a big win: <http://ow.ly/JoFx3> #BrownsCanyon

<https://twitter.com/pewenvironment/status/569546020465598464>

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4> #MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An> #MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Conservation Alliance

Thank you @whitehouse for designating Browns Canyon National Monument! #BrownsCanyon #monumentsmatter

<https://twitter.com/conservationall/status/568497440166453250>

Rep Ed Perlmutter

Glad to see #BrownsCanyon become a #NationalMonument today. TY @MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO & @hickforco for your work

<https://twitter.com/RepPerlmutter/status/568483502930464769>

Jamie Williams (TWS)

Check out stunning photos of #BrownsCanyon @Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/1ALFhVL> Thank you @BarackObama for making this place a Monument!

<https://twitter.com/JWilliamsTWS/status/568457816412987392>

NM Green Chamber

Thanks @WhiteHouse @forestservice @BLMNational for recognizing the importance of #BrownsCanyon for future generations! #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568546007333474304>

ConserveNM

.@BarackObama announcing #Pullman, #Honouliuli & #BrownsCanyon Nat'l. Monuments. #MonumentsForAll #Inspiring #History

<https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status/568506630427377664>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

###

Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President’s executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

###

Governor David Ige

"President Obama's action ensures that generations to come will be able to visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp and learn about the experiences of persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to stay there during the war. The monument will remind all who visit of the terrible injustice these families endured, even while many of their husbands, sons and brothers were fighting for the United States."

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell

"The preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument is a proud moment for Honolulu, but also a bittersweet one. World War II internment camps are a dark segment of our nation's history, and the Honouliuli camp still holds memories for Honolulu residents during wartime, life in the camp, and the courage and bravery that internees displayed even as their loyalty to our country was being challenged. It is an important part of history that should always be remembered and learned from, and I want to thank the President for making this possible. As a National Monument, Honouliuli's significance will be forever honored."

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today's presidential designation of three new national monuments.

"Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation's history are among every president's greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

"Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and

Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President’s designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and

state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O'ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai'i. Built on 160 acres in west O'ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or "hell valley." Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O'ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai'i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai'i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai'i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

"As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i**.

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai'i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai'i's congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i since 1998 and rediscovered the

location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

"On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site."

"As our country's premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country's history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today's announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park

Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site's resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors."

"NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service's study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality."

"As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country's 'best idea' a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history."

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai'i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama's Designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama's designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation's complex history associated with civil rights," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "President Obama's designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors."

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai'i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai'i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents – eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America's most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) NEW

JACL Applauds the Inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System

Washington D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) applauds [President Barack Obama's designation of Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument](#). The site, located in a gulch in central Oahu, was used during World War II to imprison Japanese community leaders and their families. The monument will preserve a forgotten but important part of American history about the treatment of thousands of Americans living in Hawaii.

"I am delighted to learn that the Honouliuli incarceration site has been added to the National Park System as a National Historic Monument. We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the significance of the site as a component of World War II and as the site related to the forcible imprisonment of Japanese and other Americans. As the longest operating World War II Japanese American confinement site in Hawaii, Honouliuli represents a unique chapter in American history and a very important lesson in civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. This inclusion in the National Park System will ensure that the story of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II will continue to be told and remembered," said JACL National President David Lin.

"Today, the President opened the windows so healing winds can blow on a place that was once called 'hell valley.' Years ago, droves of innocent men were rounded up and placed in prison centers by the military because they were Japanese priests, teachers, and community leaders. Their incarceration remained a secret because of the unwarranted shame they bore for a crime they did not commit. On the

73rd anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order authorizing the internment, the government has acknowledged this story by creating a learning place where discussions about tolerance and diversity can be elevated,” stated JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Honolulu, Honouliuli is the site of the largest and longest used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. Those of Japanese ancestry made up over a third of the population of Hawaii in 1941. In contrast to the mass incarceration taking place on the mainland, Japanese American community leaders and those with close cultural or economic ties to Japan were selectively targeted and detained throughout Hawaii.

The detentions began immediately following the strike on Pearl Harbor, with estimates of over 350 Issei and Nisei being arrested in the first 48 hours following the attack, and over 2,200 imprisoned by the end of the war. These people were detained at a number of sites across the Hawaiian Islands, with Honouliuli becoming the largest.

Honouliuli was opened in March of 1943 to hold U.S. Citizens and resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, as well as Japanese prisoners of war. The area housed over 150 buildings, guard towers, and tents on the 160 acre site, in addition to approximately 320 internees. Many of these people were detained for the duration of the war – a period of more than 3 years – and none were ever charged with a crime.

Honouliuli was closed in 1946 following the last of the prisoner of war repatriations and the site was sold as farmland. The site and its history were largely forgotten until the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) began to research and document Honouliuli’s history in the 1990’s, leading to the re-discovery of the site in 2002. Since then, a number of organizations, including the JACL Honolulu Chapter, JCCH, the University of Hawaii, and Monsanto Hawaii, have worked to preserve and interpret the site in an effort to educate the public about a largely unknown chapter of Hawaiian and American history.

In 2009, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to review Honouliuli for possible inclusion to the National Park System. In 2011, JACL passed a national resolution supporting these efforts and began meeting with members of Congress and other government officials to inform them of the historic and cultural significance of the site and to garner their support for National Park status. In December 2014, a group of staffers from the JCCH and Honolulu JACL visited officials in Washington D.C. to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System.


JACL is dedicated to securing the civil and human rights of all Americans and preserving the historical and cultural legacy of the Japanese American community. The preservation and interpretation of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites ensures that their important and distinct place in American history will continue to educate future generations against repeating injustices of the past.

<http://www.jacl.org/news/>

###

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii NEW

Ad in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser




Thank you President Obama,
Secretary Jewell,
Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono,
Rep. Gabbard, and Rep. Takai
for your work to preserve the
Honouliuli Internment Camp.

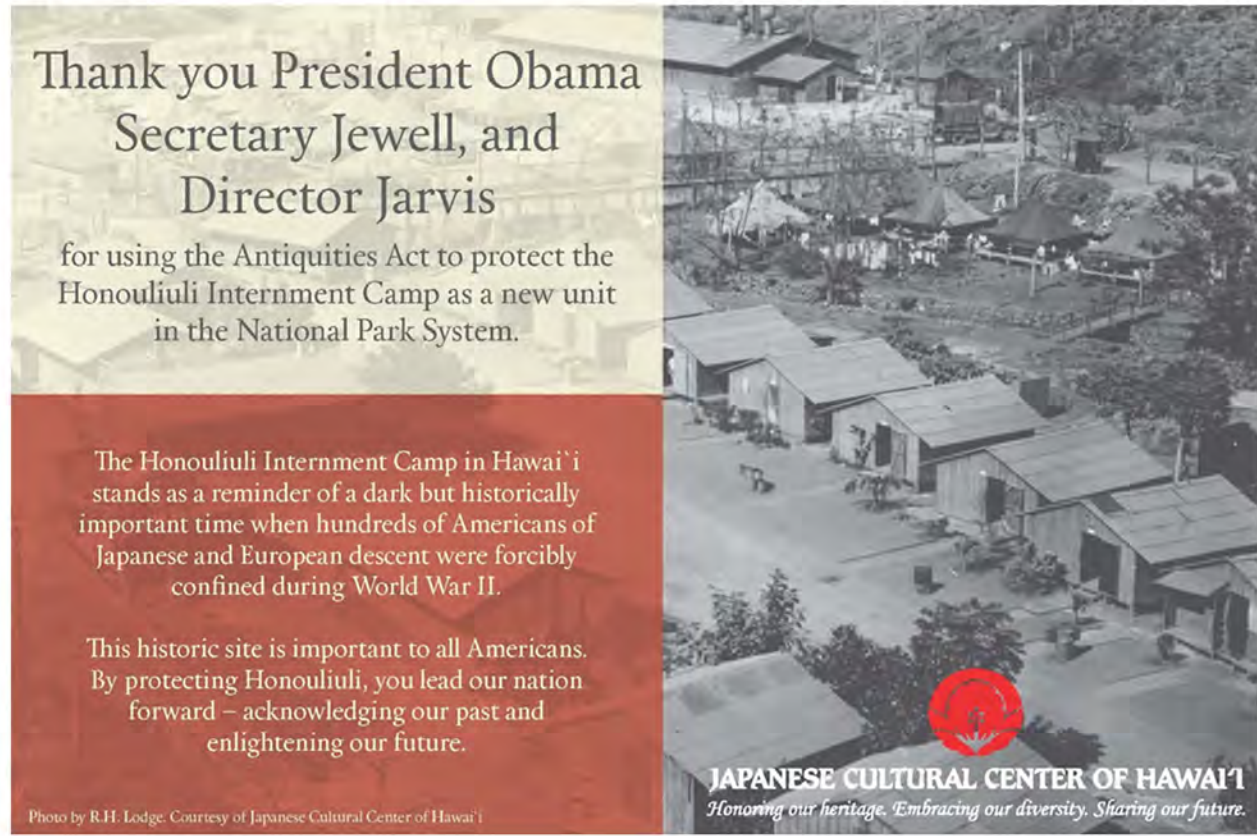
The Honouliuli Internment Camp in
Hawai'i stands as a reminder of a dark
but historically important time when
hundreds of Americans of Japanese
and European descent were forcibly
confined during World War II.

This historic site is important to all
Americans. By protecting Honouliuli
through the Antiquities Act, you
will lead our nation forward –
acknowledging our past and
enlightening our future.

Photo by R.H. Lodge. Courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i


JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

Ad in Politico



Thank you President Obama
Secretary Jewell, and
Director Jarvis

for using the Antiquities Act to protect the
Honouliuli Internment Camp as a new unit
in the National Park System.

The Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i
stands as a reminder of a dark but historically
important time when hundreds of Americans of
Japanese and European descent were forcibly
confined during World War II.

This historic site is important to all Americans.
By protecting Honouliuli, you lead our nation
forward – acknowledging our past and
enlightening our future.

Photo by R.H. Lodge. Courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

Twitter

Matt Lee-Ashley (CAP)

MT @paulsparrow1 #WWII Internment camp in #Hawaii to become national monument. #Honouliuli
#MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/MLeeAshley/status/568057959680491520>

NM Green Chamber

Mahalo #POTUS and @SecretaryJewell for protecting #Honouliuli Internment Site as unit of the
@natlparkservice. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568543970382315520>

Travel Leaders **NEW**

#Obama made #Honouliuli Internment Camp a #nationalmonument. It's a former #POW #WWII
camp.(Photos:... <http://instagram.com/p/zVa8meBcsi/>

<https://twitter.com/TravelLeaders/status/568854511823015936>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

National Wild Turkey Federation - George Thornton, CEO NEW

"There are so many distractions in our world today stealing the attention of our youth, but we [the NWTf] have a duty to our communities to provide options to help get kids outdoors. We are proud to play a key role in promoting outdoor activities to our youth as they are the generation that we will rely on to help save the future of our wildlife and habitat."

###

Natural Resources Defense Council - Robert Friedman, Campaigner NEW

"This program couldn't come at a more important time, especially as technology is driving more and more young people indoors, away from the opportunities presented by the natural world. Think of all of these 4th graders seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, or crocodiles in the Everglades or Half Dome in Yosemite, and the sense of wonder they will feel by seeing such natural magnificence. These experiences will show them what is at stake in our fight to preserve these amazing places, and will make them advocates for a more just and more sustainable future. Every Kid in a Park has the potential to change the landscape of activism in this country in a moment it is desperately needed."

###

American Hiking Society - Gregory Miller, President NEW

"So many children are spending more time indoors these days, often in front of screens, and if we don't act, there will be severe consequences as they become adults. Getting kids outside will help improve health outcomes, academic success, and also ensure that America's public lands will still have champions when their generation becomes the stewards of these incredible parks and forests."

###

The Audubon Society - Mike Daulton, VP for Government Relations NEW

"Children and families are inspired by the natural world, and that inspiration has lifelong benefits. We all need clean water, clean air, and healthy natural spaces. Getting kids and families into nature illuminates the connections we share with each other and with the great outdoors. A new generation of conservationists is waiting to emerge as they discover birds, other wildlife, and America's great natural resources. We're glad the White House agrees, and we support this new initiative."

###

Children & Nature Network - Richard Louv, Co-Founder NEW

“The President's announcement and new initiative may well be a turning point. The initiative will help support the people who have worked so hard, many of them for decades, to connect children to nature. It will encourage new actions by local government, education, religious organizations, the health care professions, and, crucially, by our business communities. The greatest change must happen beyond government, in the daily decisions that all of us, as individuals and members of families, take in our daily lives. Ultimately, only we can make sure that every child receives the gifts of the natural world.”

###

The Student Conservation Association NEW

“The Student Conservation Association applauds this commitment to connect more young people with our national parks. As the national leader in youth conservation service, SCA has proven that exposure to the great outdoors has a transformative impact on young people, instilling lifelong conservation values and creating healthier, happier kids.”

###

Wilderness Inquiry NEW

“Wilderness Inquiry is thrilled to support this innovative new program that facilitates full participation in nature. Outdoor exploration is a birthright all children share, regardless of any perceived physical, cultural, or socio-economic barriers. We will continue to do our part to connect thousands of children and their families to educational and inspirational adventures in our national parks, forests, and wilderness areas. Many of our partners including National Park Service, US Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and the Outdoors Alliance for Kids also support this effort, and we will work with them to get Every Kid in a Park!”

###

HECHO NEW

HECHO Statement on President’s Kids in Parks Initiative

Las Vegas, NM – Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) Outreach Coordinator Max Trujillo released this statement on the President’s new Kid in a Park initiative:

“Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying America's public lands for generations. Increasing access to healthy watersheds, clean air, robust wildlife habitats, and open spaces for our nation’s 4th-graders and their families would truly benefit our nation’s young Latinos by providing opportunities to connect with and learn about their cultural past and traditional uses of the land. Ensuring that our young Latinos are able to experience and understand this nation’s public lands heritage will be an invaluable asset for us all.”

###

The City Project NEW

President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

Since President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains Monument in October 2014, the White House has demonstrated a renewed commitment to [environmental and green justice](#).

Every child has the right to the simple joy of playing in the park. Under President Obama’s Every Kid in a Park initiative, the National Park Service will give all fourth graders and their families free admission to national parks and other federal lands for a full year. The President also designated new national monuments.

President Obama recognizes that too many children, especially children of color, don’t have access to parks where they can play, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment. This is an issue of social justice, health, and economic vitality for all. It’s not enough to have awesome natural wonders. You have to be able to access them. Green justice is about working with communities to open up parks and our heritage to everybody — young and old, Latino, Asian, Native American, black, white — to make sure everybody can enjoy these rights. Every Kid in a Park will award transportation grants for school children to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Transit to Trails provides opportunities for park-poor, income-poor communities to learn about water, land, wildlife and cultural history, and engage in healthy physical activity. Transit to Trails increases access to national parks, monuments, and other park lands. Underserved communities lack close-to-home green space, monuments, transportation, and opportunities to reach recreation and natural resources. [Transit to Trails is a best practice to get people to the parks now, and prepare young people to be the stewards of our natural heritage tomorrow. Transit to Trails helps reduce traffic congestion and parking problems, improve air quality, and reduce polluted water run-off into rivers and the ocean by providing accessible public transportation.](#) President Obama agrees with the National Park Service, the California Parks Forward Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the US Army Corps of Engineers on transit: The Transit to Trails program by Anahuak Youth Sports Association, The City Project, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a best practice for taking inner city youth and their families and friends on fun, educational, and healthy park, river, beach, and mountain trips.



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell with children from Anahuak Youth Sports Association and The City Project

We celebrate President Obama designating three new monuments that honor the diverse history of our nation, and promote access to healthy, outdoor recreation for all: Honouliuli, Pullman, and the Browns Canyon landscape and river corridor.

Honouliuli commemorates the fragility of civil rights, and the incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans for three years during World War II. The designation on February 19 comes 73 years to the day after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066. The order authorized the evacuation of over 100,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, to isolated, fenced, and guarded internment camps. The United States Supreme Court upheld this intentional discrimination against Japanese Americans in *Korematsu v United States*. A federal district court threw out Fred Korematsu’s conviction 40 years later, concluding that “[today the decision inKorematsu lies overruled in the court of history.](#)”

Pullman, on Chicago’s Far South Side, honors the formation of the first African-American labor union, development of the first “company town,” and the role of railroads in the nation’s industrial past.

Honouliuli and Pullman, like Manzanar National Monument, are best practice examples to [celebrate the nation’s diversity faithfully, completely, and accurately, and to stimulate and provoke a greater understanding of, and dialogue on, civil rights, democracy, and freedom.](#)

The City Project has been working for 15 years to broaden access to parks and open space for inner-city residents and to fight childhood obesity by guaranteeing that students get enough physical education. We are profoundly grateful to President Barack Obama and the National Park Service for Kid in a Park, and for diversifying national monuments.

–Robert García, Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project

<http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/35621>

###

Outdoor Industry Association

President's Announcement on "Every Kid in a Park" and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama's announcement today promoting the new "Every Kid in a Park" initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America's "best idea," our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America's youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president's call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind "Every Kid in a Park," including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

"We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it's what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative," said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. "We accept the president's challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children's interaction with the outdoors a national priority."

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country's newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have

preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the

importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest.” - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

“We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives.” - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

“Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America’s public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards.”

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America’s parents, educators and child care providers to give America’s 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges, we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child’s life experience."

- **Collin O’Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

“The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America’s public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation’s natural resources.” - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

“The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!” - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

“Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls’ understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them.” - **Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

National Wildlife Foundation

Collin O'Mara in response to President Obama's announcement of a new goal to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or refuge:

"We can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliated organizations enthusiastically support the goal put forth by President Obama today to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or wildlife refuge in the coming year. Our public lands are an important part of the American story and children receive immense benefit from learning about and directly experiencing nature, wildlife, the outdoors and public land areas.

The need for such a goal has never been higher as America's children now spend so much of their time staying indoors staring at the screens of electronic devices, watching television and playing electronic games. Research shows that the average child today spends a daily eight hours connected to such devices and spends a small fraction of their time engaged in outdoor play and nature study. This results in a lost affinity for nature, our public lands and this unique aspect of American heritage.

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America's parents, educators and child care providers to give America's 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges," says Collin O'Mara, NWF's President and CEO, "we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation provides programming to one third of all of America's 4th graders through its Ranger Rick publications, its Eco Schools USA and Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats, parent education programs and partnerships with park and wildlife agencies—all of which will directly support the President's new goal.

The National Wildlife Federation working with its partner organizations, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Recreation Coalition, the Federal Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), and our 49 state and territorial affiliates has developed nature and outdoor programs that offer 5 million children opportunities for weekly and daily nature play. Having this new presidential goal of planning for every fourth grader in America to visit a public land park, forest or refuge will support and expand on our success in reconnecting kids and families with nature and will help children at an impressionable age to actually experience some of our most beautiful and compelling natural and scenic places.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Get-Outside/2015/02-19-15-Collin-OMara-in-response-to-President-announcement-to-have-every-4th-grader-in-America.aspx>

###

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell said. "Nature is the best teacher, and our parks provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children." – WaPo Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

HECHO

Teaching Kids & Getting Them Outdoors: It's Part of Our Heritage

The following post by Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) comes at a timely moment. Today President Obama announces the "Every Kid in a Park Initiative," which aims to bring every child in the nation into the parks and public lands. It includes free admission for one full year for all fourth grade kids and their families into the National Parks. HECHO supports this initiative! (Click on the link to read the blog post)

<http://www.hechoonline.com/teaching-kids-getting-them-outdoors-its-part-of-our-heritage/>

Twitter

MayorMatthewMarchant- City of Carrollton, TX) NEW

My rising 4th grdr will be pumped! "@johnblairindc: Pres. to announce that 4th graders & families will get in free to public lands for 1 yr!"

<https://twitter.com/MatthewMarchant/status/568439335604731905>

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks an public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>

Outdoor Industry

BREAKING: @BarackObama to announce free entrance to US public lands for 1 year for all 4th graders!
#EveryKidinaPark

<https://twitter.com/OIA/status/568428622790262784>

Tommy Caldwell (Athlete)

Today the President announced the initiative "Every Kid in a Park". My wife and I are passionate about getting... <http://fb.me/1zBTzCqO9>

<https://twitter.com/tommycaldwell1/status/568515545521197056>

Patagonia

We agree with the @OIA - The Every Kid in a Park Initiative is good news. Read on:

<http://pat.ag/17hHKtE>

<https://twitter.com/patagonia/status/568501553767657472>

Trust for Public Land

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>

Conrad Anker (Athlete)

Yeah ~ President [Barack Obama](#). Thanks for recognizing the importance of our wild heritage and the benefit it has to our nation. Free access for a year to public lands for all 4th graders will get the future leaders off the digital rabbit warren and into the wild. [#everykidinapark](#) Add on Browns Canyon and today is a great day for the outdoor community. Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conrad-Anker/143199022383600?sk=info&tab=page_info

Kevin Jorgeson (Professional Climber)

How cool! [@BarackObama](#) announces year of free admission to all Ntl Parks for 4th graders, plus new ntl monuments: <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/kjorgeson/status/568518926037954561>

Range of Light

Thanks to President @BarackObama for your leadership in making this happen!
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/> ... #EveryKidInAPark @WhiteHouse #leadership

<https://twitter.com/rangeoflight/status/568511802432053248>

Latino Outdoors

"Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments | The White House" <http://wh.gov/ibeLg> @whitehouse

<https://twitter.com/LatinoOutdoors/status/568512483117305858>

Outdoor Afro

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/568478382540898304>

Girl Scouts

Thank you @BarackObama for ensuring kids across America can visit a park! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark!
=> <http://wp.me/p3qC97-i6>

<https://twitter.com/girlscouts/status/568468631367094273>

Collin O'Mara (NWF)

Today's a great day to be a 4th grader! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark ! <http://owl.li/Ilmis> Thank you @BarackObama #FindYourPark

https://twitter.com/Collin_OMara/status/568511612438446080

LCV

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568506626648502272>

National Park Trust

Shout out to @BarackObama for #EveryKidInAPark initiative! Tell us what you're doing on 5/16 for #KidstoParks Day! <http://ow.ly/Jlcaf>

<https://twitter.com/NatParkTrust/status/568504259467206656>

Natl Park Foundation

.@BarackObama just announced #EveryKidInAPark! Find out how you can take part at
<http://prks.org/KidsInParks> !

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502164345237504>

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today's presidential designation of three new national monuments.

"Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation's history are among every president's greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

"Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

"Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today's bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people's vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I'm proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them."

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration's Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President’s designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

City Council, City of Chicago - Anthony Beale, Alderman, Ninth Ward NEW

“Steeped in the history of American industry, labor, urban planning and the African-American civil rights movement, few locations preserve these stories as evocatively as the Pullman community. Pullman’s narrative is America’s story. In addition, a national park would create the opportunity to access much needed federal investment in transportation and business growth, shops, stores and restaurants for visitors and residents alike. Once there is a national park at Pullman you’re going to see more great things happening in the Roseland and Pullman communities.”

###

External Stakeholders

Historic Pullman Foundation | Michael A. Shymanski, AIA, President NEW

“The designation of Pullman as a national monument culminates a five decade grassroots effort of the Pullman Civic Organization and the Historic Pullman Foundation to preserve and restore the community’s place in American history and to attract the national and international attention that this important landmark deserves. We are thrilled that President Obama will designate Pullman as part of the National Park System and we look forward to working with the National Park Service and others in creating a great urban national park in Chicago.”

###

Illinois Labor History Society - Larry Spivak, President NEW

“President Obama’s historic action in authorizing national monument status for the Pullman District comes at a time when honoring the struggles of all working people to keep a vibrant middle class is needed more than ever. The history of the Pullman Porters, the workers who built the Pullman Palace cars and the courageous actions taken to improve their working conditions for themselves, their families and their community will now be honored as part of our national heritage. Thank you Mr. President for helping us remember.”

###

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives - David Doig, President NEW

“Designating Pullman a national park will be a huge boost for the economy of the neighborhood. It will bring tourism spending, the opportunity to access federal infrastructure dollars, and private investment, all of which are much needed here. A lot of work is already underway including new investment in retail, industrial and residential development. The national park will build on this progress and further bolster and encourage new investment.”

###

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) - Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director NEW

“The recognition of the Pullman National Monument is another important step in honoring the lives those diverse groups of working people, labor unions, and political activists who fought diligently to demonstrate that there is dignity of work. In doing such their legacies have strengthened the narrative of our national history. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History applauds President Obama on the creation of this monument. Its presence will insure that the stories of people like A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, the men and women of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and its auxiliaries, and the countless others who worked tirelessly to integrate the missions of the labor and civil rights movements of so many years ago will now have an opportunity to forever remain part of our national discourse on race and political activism in the 20th century.

###

PullmanArts - Ann Alspaugh, Chair NEW

Thank you President Obama for bringing the National Park Service to Pullman and your support of the important work many residents have been doing for decades. We in the community have worked countless hours to restore Pullman's unique architecture, to educate the public, and to enhance and develop community assets such as the landscape gardens, arts programming and pride of place look forward to sharing this rich history with all the new visitors when Pullman becomes a national monument.”

###

Pullman Civic Organization - Tom McMahon, President NEW

"The Pullman Civic Organization and its members are elated over the news that Pullman will become a National Park. This represents the hard work of number of community residents, local and national political leaders and many other organizations who see the development and preservation of this location as an important facet of our history."

###

Pullman Wheelworks Residents - Marie Robinson, President NEW

"Thanks to President Obama, the stories of our Pullman community will be shared with the world in a way they haven't been before. Pullman as a national park will be important because it will bring revenue to the area and job opportunities for the people of the community, and this could be life-changing for many of our neighbors. I'm excited to see a Pullman National Monument because of the new-found pride that people will have in their neighborhood."

###

National Parks Conservation Association - Lynn McClure, Midwest Senior Director NEW

"The people who are part of the Pullman legacy helped to shape America as we know it today. Pullman workers fought for fair labor conditions in the late 19th century and the Pullman porters helped advance America's Civil Rights movement. The designation of Pullman as a national monument will further showcase the commitment of President Obama to diversify our national parks and preserve the places that define who we are as a nation. Thanks to the President, Pullman's story will soon be remembered and recounted for the millions of people that visit America's national parks each year."

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation - Stephanie Meeks, President and CEO NEW

"We applaud President Obama for this decisive action on behalf of one of America's most important historic places. From industrialization to the labor and civil rights movements, Pullman played a significant role in American history during the late 19th and early 20th centuries."

###

The National Trust for Historic Preservation **NEW**

**Thank you President Obama
Secretary Jewell and Director Jarvis
for protecting our American history at Pullman**

The Pullman National Monument will boost our local economy and provide permanent protection for an irreplaceable part of our cultural heritage. Thanks to your efforts, the important Civil Rights, labor, and industrial history of Pullman will continue to inspire the children and grandchildren of Chicago and the nation.



- Bielenberg Historic Pullman House Foundation
- Bronzeville Historical Society
- Calumet Area Industrial Commission
- Chatham Business Association
- Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation
- Chicago Urban League
- Developing Communities Project, Inc.
- Far South Side Community Development Corporation
- Friends of the Pullman State Historic Site
- Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce
- Historic Pullman Foundation
- Historic Pullman Garden Club
- Landmarks Illinois
- Mercy Housing Lakefront
- NAACP Chicago Southside Branch
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Neighborhood Housing Services
- Preservation Chicago
- PullmanArts
- Pullman Civic Organization
- Pullman Urban Gardeners
- Pullman Wheelworks Residents
- Rosemoor Community Association
- Salem Baptist Church of Chicago
- Southeast Environmental Task Force
- South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association

Paid for by National Trust for Historic Preservation
Photo courtesy National Trust for Historic Preservation/Cynthia Lynn

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

Elected Officials

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“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

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<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Healing Waters Family Center - Joseito Velasquez, Pastor NEW

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife. The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

###

Conservation Colorado - Pete Maysmith, Executive Director NEW

"We thank President Obama for acting now to protect Browns Canyon, and honoring the work of so many to protect this striking place. This new national monument is a culmination of former Senator Mark Udall's work and so many others to protect this gem of the Arkansas River," said Pete Maysmith, Conservation Colorado's Executive Director. "All Coloradans can be proud of what we have accomplished together."

###

Sierra Club - David Scott, President, and John Stansfield, Volunteer, Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter NEW

"We applaud President Obama for using his authority to protect this national treasure. The unique combination of water, wild landscape and lower elevation ridges at Browns Canyon provide four-season opportunities for people to get outside, as well as important wildlife habitat. Browns Canyon is a wonderful addition to our nation's conservation legacy; we look forward to President Obama's continued work to secure our outdoor heritage.

###

John Gale, Director, backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation NEW

“Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families.”

###

Colorado Come to Life – Officials Colorado Tourism Site NEW



<http://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments>

###

Environment America NEW

Environment Colorado lauds protecting fishing, rafting in Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for trout fishing and whitewater rafting here in central Colorado, will gain permanent protection tomorrow as a National Monument, following decades of campaigning by outdoor enthusiasts, the tourism industry, and some of the state’s most prominent political leaders.

President Obama’s expected action, revealed this morning in the *Denver Post*, will preserve more than 20,000 rugged canyon acres surrounding the Arkansas River, a beloved area home to gold medal trout,

black bears, and stunning vistas. Kim Stevens, Environment Colorado issued the following statement in response:

“Places like Browns Canyon are a big part of what makes Colorado so special. That’s why tens of thousands of Coloradans from all walks of life called for the permanent protection of this incredible landscape. That’s why we’re thrilled future generations will have the chance for the same spectacular views and opportunities to raft, hike, and fish that we enjoy [in the canyon] today.

“President Obama, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet all get credit for safeguarding this special place. Everyone who signed a petition, attended a meeting, or made a phone call to protect Browns Canyon has a lot to be proud of, too.

“Environment Colorado looks forward to continuing to work with the administration and Congress to keep pristine public lands off limits to development, mining, drilling, and pollution. Future generations of Americans and the wildlife that depend on these ecosystems deserve nothing less.”

Kim Stevens, Campaign Director, Environment Colorado

###

Twitter

LCV NEW

It's official: #BrownsCanyon is America's newest #NationalMonument and permanently protected for all to raft, hike, fish, camp and explore

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568458949441290240>

pew environment NEW

Why our new national monument in Colorado is a big win: <http://ow.ly/JoFx3> #BrownsCanyon

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

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###

External Stakeholders

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) NEW

JACL Applauds the Inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System

Washington D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) applauds [President Barack Obama's designation of Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument](#). The site, located in a gulch in central Oahu, was used during World War II to imprison Japanese community leaders and their families. The monument will preserve a forgotten but important part of American history about the treatment of thousands of Americans living in Hawaii.

"I am delighted to learn that the Honouliuli incarceration site has been added to the National Park System as a National Historic Monument. We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the significance of the site as a component of World War II and as the site related to the forcible imprisonment of Japanese and other Americans. As the longest operating World War II Japanese American confinement site in Hawaii, Honouliuli represents a unique chapter in American history and a very important lesson in civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. This inclusion in the National Park System will ensure that the story of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II will continue to be told and remembered," said JACL National President David Lin.

"Today, the President opened the windows so healing winds can blow on a place that was once called 'hell valley.' Years ago, droves of innocent men were rounded up and placed in prison centers by the military because they were Japanese priests, teachers, and community leaders. Their incarceration remained a secret because of the unwarranted shame they bore for a crime they did not commit. On the 73rd anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order authorizing the internment, the government has acknowledged this story by creating a learning place where discussions about tolerance and diversity can be elevated," stated JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Honolulu, Honouliuli is the site of the largest and longest used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. Those of Japanese ancestry made up over a third of the population of Hawaii in 1941. In contrast to the mass incarceration taking place on the mainland, Japanese American community leaders and those with close cultural or economic ties to Japan were selectively targeted and detained throughout Hawaii.

The detentions began immediately following the strike on Pearl Harbor, with estimates of over 350 Issei and Nisei being arrested in the first 48 hours following the attack, and over 2,200 imprisoned by the end of the war. These people were detained at a number of sites across the Hawaiian Islands, with Honouliuli becoming the largest.

Honouliuli was opened in March of 1943 to hold U.S. Citizens and resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, as well as Japanese prisoners of war. The area housed over 150 buildings, guard towers, and tents on the 160 acre site, in addition to approximately 320 internees. Many of these people were detained for the duration of the war – a period of more than 3 years – and none were ever charged with a crime.

Honouliuli was closed in 1946 following the last of the prisoner of war repatriations and the site was sold as farmland. The site and its history were largely forgotten until the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) began to research and document Honouliuli's history in the 1990's, leading to the re-discovery of the site in 2002. Since then, a number of organizations, including the JAACL Honolulu Chapter, JCCH, the University of Hawaii, and Monsanto Hawaii, have worked to preserve and interpret the site in an effort to educate the public about a largely unknown chapter of Hawaiian and American history.

In 2009, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to review Honouliuli for possible inclusion to the National Park System. In 2011, JAACL passed a national resolution supporting these efforts and began meeting with members of Congress and other government officials to inform them of the historic and cultural significance of the site and to garner their support for National Park status. In December 2014, a group of staffers from the JCCH and Honolulu JAACL visited officials in Washington D.C. to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System.

JAACL is dedicated to securing the civil and human rights of all Americans and preserving the historical and cultural legacy of the Japanese American community. The preservation and interpretation of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites ensures that their important and distinct place in American history will continue to educate future generations against repeating injustices of the past.

<http://www.jacl.org/news/>

###

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii NEW

Ad in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Thank you President Obama,
Secretary Jewell,
Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono,
Rep. Gabbard, and Rep. Takai
for your work to preserve the
Honouliuli Internment Camp.

The Honouliuli Internment Camp in
Hawai'i stands as a reminder of a dark
but historically important time when
hundreds of Americans of Japanese
and European descent were forcibly
confined during World War II.

This historic site is important to all
Americans. By protecting Honouliuli
through the Antiquities Act, you
will lead our nation forward –
acknowledging our past and
enlightening our future.

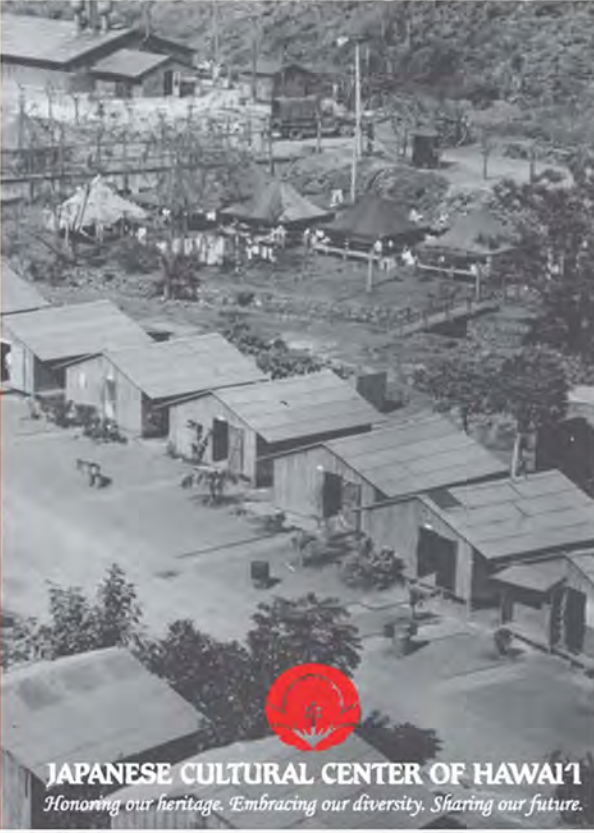
Photo by R.H. Lodge. Courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

Ad in Politico



**Thank you President Obama
Secretary Jewell, and
Director Jarvis**

for using the Antiquities Act to protect the
Honouliuli Internment Camp as a new unit
in the National Park System.

The Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i
stands as a reminder of a dark but historically
important time when hundreds of Americans of
Japanese and European descent were forcibly
confined during World War II.

This historic site is important to all Americans.
By protecting Honouliuli, you lead our nation
forward – acknowledging our past and
enlightening our future.

Photo by R.H. Lodge. Courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

Twitter

Travel Leaders **NEW**

#Obama made #Honouliuli Internment Camp a #nationalmonument. It's a former #POW #WWII camp. (Photos:... <http://instagram.com/p/zVa8meBcsj/>

<https://twitter.com/TravelLeaders/status/568854511823015936>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

National Wild Turkey Federation - George Thornton, CEO **NEW**

"There are so many distractions in our world today stealing the attention of our youth, but we [the NWTF] have a duty to our communities to provide options to help get kids outdoors. We are proud to play a key role in promoting outdoor activities to our youth as they are the generation that we will rely on to help save the future of our wildlife and habitat."

###

Natural Resources Defense Council - Robert Friedman, Campaigner NEW

“This program couldn't come at a more important time, especially as technology is driving more and more young people indoors, away from the opportunities presented by the natural world. Think of all of these 4th graders seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, or crocodiles in the Everglades or Half Dome in Yosemite, and the sense of wonder they will feel by seeing such natural magnificence. These experiences will show them what is at stake in our fight to preserve these amazing places, and will make them advocates for a more just and more sustainable future. Every Kid in a Park has the potential to change the landscape of activism in this country in a moment it is desperately needed.”

###

American Hiking Society - Gregory Miller, President NEW

“So many children are spending more time indoors these days, often in front of screens, and if we don't act, there will be severe consequences as they become adults. Getting kids outside will help improve health outcomes, academic success, and also ensure that America's public lands will still have champions when their generation becomes the stewards of these incredible parks and forests.”

###

The Audubon Society - Mike Daulton, VP for Government Relations NEW

“Children and families are inspired by the natural world, and that inspiration has lifelong benefits. We all need clean water, clean air, and healthy natural spaces. Getting kids and families into nature illuminates the connections we share with each other and with the great outdoors. A new generation of conservationists is waiting to emerge as they discover birds, other wildlife, and America's great natural resources. We're glad the White House agrees, and we support this new initiative.”

###

Children & Nature Network - Richard Louv, Co-Founder NEW

“The President's announcement and new initiative may well be a turning point. The initiative will help support the people who have worked so hard, many of them for decades, to connect children to nature. It will encourage new actions by local government, education, religious organizations, the health care professions, and, crucially, by our business communities. The greatest change must happen beyond government, in the daily decisions that all of us, as individuals and members of families, take in our daily lives. Ultimately, only we can make sure that every child receives the gifts of the natural world.”

###

The Student Conservation Association NEW

“The Student Conservation Association applauds this commitment to connect more young people with our national parks. As the national leader in youth conservation service, SCA has proven that exposure to the great outdoors has a transformative impact on young people, instilling lifelong conservation values and creating healthier, happier kids.”

###

Wilderness Inquiry NEW

“Wilderness Inquiry is thrilled to support this innovative new program that facilitates full participation in nature. Outdoor exploration is a birthright all children share, regardless of any perceived physical, cultural, or socio-economic barriers. We will continue to do our part to connect thousands of children and their families to educational and inspirational adventures in our national parks, forests, and wilderness areas. Many of our partners including National Park Service, US Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and the Outdoors Alliance for Kids also support this effort, and we will work with them to get Every Kid in a Park!”

###

HECHO NEW

HECHO Statement on President’s Kids in Parks Initiative

Las Vegas, NM – Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) Outreach Coordinator Max Trujillo released this statement on the President’s new Kid in a Park initiative:

“Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying America's public lands for generations. Increasing access to healthy watersheds, clean air, robust wildlife habitats, and open spaces for our nation’s 4th-graders and their families would truly benefit our nation’s young Latinos by providing opportunities to connect with and learn about their cultural past and traditional uses of the land. Ensuring that our young Latinos are able to experience and understand this nation’s public lands heritage will be an invaluable asset for us all.”

###

The City Project NEW

President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

Since President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains Monument in October 2014, the White House has demonstrated a renewed commitment to [environmental and green justice](#).

Every child has the right to the simple joy of playing in the park. Under President Obama’s Every Kid in a Park initiative, the National Park Service will give all fourth graders and their families free admission to

national parks and other federal lands for a full year. The President also designated new national monuments.

President Obama recognizes that too many children, especially children of color, don't have access to parks where they can play, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment. This is an issue of social justice, health, and economic vitality for all. It's not enough to have awesome natural wonders. You have to be able to access them. Green justice is about working with communities to open up parks and our heritage to everybody — young and old, Latino, Asian, Native American, black, white — to make sure everybody can enjoy these rights. Every Kid in a Park will award transportation grants for school children to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Transit to Trails provides opportunities for park-poor, income-poor communities to learn about water, land, wildlife and cultural history, and engage in healthy physical activity. Transit to Trails increases access to national parks, monuments, and other park lands. Underserved communities lack close-to-home green space, monuments, transportation, and opportunities to reach recreation and natural resources. [Transit to Trails is a best practice to get people to the parks now, and prepare young people to be the stewards of our natural heritage tomorrow. Transit to Trails helps reduce traffic congestion and parking problems, improve air quality, and reduce polluted water run-off into rivers and the ocean by providing accessible public transportation.](#) President Obama agrees with the National Park Service, the California Parks Forward Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the US Army Corps of Engineers on transit: The Transit to Trails program by Anahuak Youth Sports Association, The City Project, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a best practice for taking inner city youth and their families and friends on fun, educational, and healthy park, river, beach, and mountain trips.



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell with children from Anahuak Youth Sports Association and The City Project

We celebrate President Obama designating three new monuments that honor the diverse history of our nation, and promote access to healthy, outdoor recreation for all: Honouliuli, Pullman, and the Browns Canyon landscape and river corridor.

Honouliuli commemorates the fragility of civil rights, and the incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans for three years during World War II. The designation on February 19 comes 73 years to the day after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066. The order authorized the evacuation of over 100,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, to isolated, fenced, and guarded internment camps. The United States Supreme Court upheld this intentional discrimination against Japanese Americans in *Korematsu v United States*. A federal district court threw out Fred Korematsu's conviction 40 years later, concluding that "["today the decision inKorematsu lies overruled in the court of history."](#)"

Pullman, on Chicago's Far South Side, honors the formation of the first African-American labor union, development of the first "company town," and the role of railroads in the nation's industrial past.

Honouliuli and Pullman, like Manzanar National Monument, are best practice examples to [celebrate the nation's diversity faithfully, completely, and accurately, and to stimulate and provoke a greater understanding of, and dialogue on, civil rights, democracy, and freedom.](#)

The City Project has been working for 15 years to broaden access to parks and open space for inner-city residents and to fight childhood obesity by guaranteeing that students get enough physical education. We are profoundly grateful to President Barack Obama and the National Park Service for Kid in a Park, and for diversifying national monuments.

—Robert García, Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project

<http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/35621>

###

Twitter

MayorMatthewMarchant- City of Carrollton, TX) NEW

My rising 4th gdr will be pumped! "@johnblairindc: Pres. to announce that 4th graders & families will get in free to public lands for 1 yr!"

<https://twitter.com/MatthewMarchant/status/568439335604731905>



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

NY Times Editorial: Monuments to America's Past, and Future

1 message

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 8:31 AM

To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Jeffrey Olson <jeffrey_olson@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Craig Dorsett <craig_dorsett@ios.doi.gov>, Joan Padilla <joan_padilla@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Washburn <elizabeth_washburn@ios.doi.gov>

NY Times Editorial: Monuments to America's Past, and Future

A mural in the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago.
CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

A historic industrial district in Illinois, a weed-choked gulch in Hawaii and a stretch of riverine Colorado wilderness, home to eagles and bears. These three dissimilar American places are the newest national monuments, established this month by President Obama, to be protected forever by the federal government from development and destructive neglect.

The best-known is the [Pullman National Monument](#) in the Chicago neighborhood built by the Pullman Company, whose railroad-car employees helped build the African-American middle class and laid the foundations of the Civil Rights Movement. The [Honouliuli National Monument](#), outside Honolulu, protects the site of a vanished, nearly forgotten internment camp that held Japanese-American civilians, along with thousands of foreign prisoners, during World War II. The [Browns Canyon National Monument](#) lies along a rocky stretch of the Arkansas River Valley rich in wildlife and popular for rafting, hiking and fishing.

Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Mr. Obama have used their authority under the Antiquities Act to

set aside places like these. Many of the earliest monuments, established soon after the law was enacted in 1906, protected ancient American Indian settlements in the Southwest that would otherwise have been looted and returned to dust.

Through those places and more recently protected ones — like Pullman, Honouliuli and the African Burial Ground National Monument, created in 2006 on the site of an office tower in Lower Manhattan — the American public gains a richer understanding of a history that is too often overlooked, distorted or misremembered. Other monuments in fragile wilderness areas and vast, mostly pristine expanses of ocean, protect the American future.

—
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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 2, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Mar 2, 2015 at 7:00 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Secretary Jewell Signs Shoshone-Paiute Water Rights Agreement.](#)
- + [Advocates Ramp Up Efforts For National Monuments In California.](#)
- + [Interior Officials To Testify At Budget Hearings.](#)
- + [DOJ Fighting To Keep Secretary Jewell Testifying About Management Of Native American Assets.](#)
- + [Bill Would Permanently Fund PILT Program.](#)
- + [Cedar Mesa Could Become Part Of National Conservation Area.](#)
- + [Lack Of Global Sea Level Data Hindering Efforts To Estimate Sea Level Change.](#)
- + [CSC Makes Cloud Deal In Midst Of Buyout Talk.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Meets With Hawaii Gov. Ige.](#)
- + [Former Secretary Salazar Supports Educating All Americans About Energy Issues.](#)
- + [US Urged To Cut Oil Consumption.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:

- + [First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park Closer To Landmark Designation.](#)
- + [Various Groups Oppose Yellowstone Paddling Bill.](#)
- + [Graffiti Artist May Have Vandalized Joshua Tree National Park.](#)
- + [David Hall House Added To National Register Of Historic Places.](#)
- + [Illinois Budget Cuts Hurt Cahokia Mounds Historic Site.](#)
- + [Winter Caretaker Of Yellowstone National Park Profiled.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Sites Record Number Of Visitors In 2014.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: NPS Maps Noise Levels Throughout US.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Apostle Islands Ice Caves Open.](#)

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Judge To Hear Arguments On Wild Horse Round-up Lawsuit.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Comments On Red Desert Complex Wild Horse Gather.](#)
- + [Around 370 Wild Horses Estimated To Be On Joint Lands In Four Corners.](#)
- + [Environmentalists Pan New Resource Management Plan.](#)
- + [BLM Seeks Input On Resource Management Plan In Nevada.](#)
- + [New Mexico Mulls Federal Land Transfer.](#)
- + [BLM Approves ATV Trail In San Juan County.](#)
- + [BLM Proposes Mosquito Flats Mining And ATV Ban.](#)
- + [Autopsy Report Reveals Details Of Fatal Shooting By BLM Officers.](#)
- + [Watchdog Says Test Range Expansion Needs Full Review.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [Crop Herbicides Play A Role In Decline Of Monarch Population.](#)
- + [Obama Administration, Two States Fight Renewed Legal Protection For Great Lakes Wolves.](#)

- + FWS Sens Confiscated Animal Parts To National Wildlife Property Repository.
- + Authorities Say Recent Utility Work Is Not A Threat To Manassas Bald Eagles.
- + Oceanfront Development At Sunset Beach Moving Forward Despite Brunswick County Board Ruling.
- + Bill Would Allow Killing Of Protected Buzzards In Tennessee.
- + To Curb Bear Population, Florida Implements Hunting Season.
- + North Carolina Wildlife Officials Criticized Over Red Wolf.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS, Oklahoma Earthquake Numbers Differ.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + BLM Reviewing Comments On Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
- + BOEM Prepares For New Jersey Offshore Wind Lease Sale.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Researchers Looking For Middle Ground In Earthquake-Fracking Debate In Texas.
- + Fracking Chemical Disclosure Website Announces Improvements.
- + Colorado Fracking Task Force Proposes Rules To Governor.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Continuing Coverage Of Offshore Drilling Proposal.
- + Gulf States Criticize Proposal To Share Oil Royalties.
- + Dredging Project Aims To Protect Virginia Shoreline.
- + Appeals Panel Pulls False Claims Act Case From Houston Federal Judge.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + Some California Farmers To Go Another Year Without Federal Water.
- + New California Water Legislation Under Works.
- + Central Valley, Delta Water Rights Under Scrutiny.
- + BOR Expanding Winter Aquifer Recharge In Upper Snake River System.
- + New Members Join Lake Berryessa Advisory Group.
- + Southwest Faces Water Issues.
- + Sen. Gardner Presses For Arkansas Valley Conduit Funding.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + Assistant Secretary Washburn Testifies At Senate Hearing On Federal Budget.
- + House Approves Rep. Nolan's Amendment For Tribal Schools.
- + Cherokee Nation Welcomes BIA's Indian Child Welfare Act Guideline Revision.
- + Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Chairman Jandreau Dismisses Allegations In Human Rights Watch Report.
- + Indian Gambling Compact Move Forward In New Mexico.
- + Native American Tribes Gather To Discuss Legalizing Marijuana.
- + Indian Tribes Raise Revenues Through High-Interest Loans.
- + Chukchansi Group Meets BIA's Ruling For Naming Council.
- + Additional Coverage Of Casino Plans Of Little River Band Of Ottawa Indians.
- + Tribes Could Seek Self-Regulation Status.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Kerry Moves To Lower Political Tension Around Netanyahu Speech To Congress.
- + GOP Leaders Call For House-Senate Conference On DHS Funding Bill.
- + CSMonitor Analysis: Job Market Making Solid Progress.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

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:

SECRETARY JEWELL SIGNS SHOSHONE-PAIUTE WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "signed an agreement to end longstanding water disputes between the federal government and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation on the Nevada-Idaho border." The agreement signed Friday "guarantees water rights for the tribes while providing certainty for upstream water users of the East Fork of the Owyhee River." The settlement also "authorizes millions in funding for tribal water development projects, including rehabilitation of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs irrigation project serving the reservation."

Also reporting on the story are the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/27, 196K), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/1, 398K), and the [Law 360](#) (3/1, 9K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (3/2, 66K), [KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (3/2, 2K), [KHQ-TV](#) Spokane, WA (3/1, 77K) and [KOLO-TV](#) Reno, NV (3/1, 3K).

ADVOCATES RAMP UP EFFORTS FOR NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "California lawmakers and advocacy groups are ramping up efforts to win national monument designation for four scenic vistas in the state, from vast stretches of the Mojave Desert to redwood stands along the Pacific Coast Highway to canyons and mountains near the state's famous wine country." Supporters of the proposed monuments in California are pressing both Congress and President Obama. Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw "declined to directly answer whether Jewell has recommended that the president use his executive authority on any of the four California projects." However, "she said Jewell regularly briefs the president on her travels and has talked to him about 'the local vision for conservation around the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/28, 323K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/1, 77K), the [Denver Post](#) (3/1, Freking, 804K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/1, Freking, 2.28M), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (3/1), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/1, 4.78M), [Fox News](#) (3/1, 8.25M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/1, Freking, 5.81M).

Additional Coverage Of Three Newest National Monuments. Additional coverage of Pullman National Monument in Chicago, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/26, 10.32M) and [Fox News](#) (3/1, 8.25M).

Support Urged For Boulder-White Clouds National Monument. For the "Congress Blog" of [The Hill](#) (3/1, Former Rep. Larry Larocco (d-Ida.), 224K), former Rep. Larry Larocco writes that "the congressional efforts to save Central Idaho's Boulder-White Clouds, the largest unprotected roadless area in the US outside of Alaska, are dangerously stalled."

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY AT BUDGET HEARINGS. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/28, 8K) reports that "on March 4, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior will hold a hearing on the Interior Department budget request." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Mike Connor are scheduled to testify. Jewell also is "scheduled to testify March 5 on Interior's budget request before the House Natural Resources Committee."

Also reporting on the story is the [National Journal](#) (3/2, Subscription Publication, 111K).

DOJ FIGHTING TO KEEP SECRETARY JEWELL TESTIFYING ABOUT MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN ASSETS. The [National Law Journal](#) (3/1) reports that "the US Department of Justice is fighting to keep Interior Secretary Sally Jewell from having to answer questions about the government's alleged mismanagement of Native American assets since the early 20th century."

BILL WOULD PERMANENTLY FUND PILT PROGRAM. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (3/1, 49K) reports that "New Mexico's US senators are among a bipartisan group of congressional members who plan to introduce

a bill that would provide long-term funding” for the PILT program. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich “worked successfully with other lawmakers to fund PILT on a single-year basis for 2014 and 2015, and they’ve advocated for long-term funding.”

CEDAR MESA COULD BECOME PART OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/1, 28K) reports that “all eyes are on the Utah Public Lands Initiative, led by U.S. Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.” The article notes that “on the larger scale, the initiative includes 18 million acres of federal lands in seven counties,” and “on a smaller scale, it potentially could create a National Conservation Area for Cedar Mesa.”

LACK OF GLOBAL SEA LEVEL DATA HINDERING EFFORTS TO ESTIMATE SEA LEVEL CHANGE. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/28, McGinty, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the absence of global data on sea levels is preventing scientists from accurately estimating sea level changes. The Journal notes that while over 100 years of records on sea level exist for parts of Europe and North America, a lack of records in other parts of the world is creating challenges for estimating both past and future increases in sea level.

CSC MAKES CLOUD DEAL IN MIDST OF BUYOUT TALK. [Washington Technology](#) (2/27, Wakeman, 118K) reports in its “Editors Notebook” blog on CSC’s announcement that it acquired the Autonomic Resources company in order to bolster its position in completing FedRAMP. Washington Technology comments that CSC’s acquisition demonstrates it is “staying focused on continuing to shape and update its offerings” by strengthening its cloud computing capabilities, and the article says that will pay off whether or not rumors that CSC will split its government and commercial business are accurate.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS WITH HAWAII GOV. IGE. Additional coverage that Hawaii Gov. David Ige met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was provided by the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/1, 360K).

FORMER SECRETARY SALAZAR SUPPORTS EDUCATING ALL AMERICANS ABOUT ENERGY ISSUES. For the “Congress Blog” of [The Hill](#) (3/1, Salazar, 224K), former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar writes that he is “looking forward to joining other minority leaders and key stakeholders at the 2015 Energy Policy Summit being hosted by the American Association of Blacks in Energy and Hispanics in Energy in Washington, D.C. this week to discuss the energy policies impacting minority communities.” Salazar says that “through forums like these, minority stakeholder organizations can become better informed about the energy policies that have a real impact on their lives, and ensure our view is heard by policymakers at a national and state level.” Salazar concludes that “the best way to ensure a bright energy future for all Americans” is to educate “all constituencies about our America’s evolving energy and environmental policies.”

US URGED TO CUT OIL CONSUMPTION. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/27, Negin, 281K), Elliott Negin, Senior Writer, Union of Concerned Scientists, writes that “attempting to make good on its ‘all of the above’ energy strategy, the Obama administration recently floated proposals for oil development that have infuriated members of Congress on both coasts, but for very different reasons.” Instead, Negin proposes, “given oil’s considerable drawbacks, wouldn’t it make more sense to focus national attention on consuming less?” He concludes that this strategy “won’t require is drilling in the Arctic Refuge, Arctic Ocean or along the Eastern seaboard.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP STATE PARK CLOSER TO LANDMARK DESIGNATION. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/27, 76K) reports that “First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park is moving closer to receiving National Historic Landmark designation.” Earlier this month, the National Historic Landmark Review Committee “approved and forwarded the nomination to the next level, which is the National Park Service’s National Landmark Advisory Committee.”

VARIOUS GROUPS OPPOSE YELLOWSTONE PADDLING BILL. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that “the Greater Yellowstone Coalition is among various groups opposing proposed legislation that would open up more rivers and streams to paddling in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.” Caroline Byrd, who directs the environmental advocacy group, said, “It is a blunt approach that fails to consider the existing recreational activities and natural values provided by waters in some of the world’s most iconic places – Yellowstone and

Grand Teton national parks.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/1, 54K).

GRAFFITI ARTIST MAY HAVE VANDALIZED JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Take Part](#) (3/1, 217K) reports that Paris-based street artist André Saraiva, “better known as André, this week posted an image of a defaced boulder that appears to be inside the Joshua Tree National Park on his now private Instagram account.” Joshua Tree National Park hasn’t “confirmed whether Saraiva broke the law.”

DAVID HALL HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M) reports that the David Hall House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ILLINOIS BUDGET CUTS HURT CAHOKIA MOUNDS HISTORIC SITE. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/1, 889K) reports that the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site has “been so hurt by Illinois funding cuts that a nonprofit society has turned to the public to pay for brochures for visitors.” According to the article, “on Jan. 30, the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society set up a plea on the fund-raising site, [gofundme.org](#), to raise \$7,500,” and “by Wednesday, it had surpassed its goal; by Friday, it had raised \$8,716, from 543 people.” Meanwhile, “the private Heartlands Conservancy is seeking to have Congress place the mounds under the auspices of the National Park Service.”

WINTER CARETAKER OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK PROFILED. [CBS News](#) (3/1, 8.2M) reports on Steve Fuller, the Winter Caretaker of Yellowstone National Park. According to the story, “he’s stuck out the solitary existence of the position for 42 years, ever since the winter of 1973.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS SITES RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS IN 2014. Additional coverage that the NPS, “which is preparing to celebrate its centennial next year, set a record for guests in 2014 with 292.8 million visits,” was provided by the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (3/1, 605K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MAPS NOISE LEVELS THROUGHOUT US. coverage of the NPS’ work to map noise levels throughout the US was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/1, 988K), and [WBBM-TV](#) Chicago (2/27, 127K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: APOSTLE ISLANDS ICE CAVES OPEN. Additional coverage of the opening of the Apostle Islands ice caves was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/1, Louwagie, 1.37M), and [KBJR-TV](#) Duluth, MN (3/1, 2K).

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON WILD HORSE ROUND-UP LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that “arguments in a federal lawsuit contesting the roundup of hundreds of wild horses in western Wyoming last fall will focus on a federal law that carries different rules for private and federal land.” According to the article, “the 1,263 horses gathered in late September and early October roamed both types of land in a vast area of sagebrush desert featuring square-mile sections of private land interspersed with equal-sized sections of federal land.” US District Judge Nancy Freudenthal will consider in Laramie on Monday whether the BLM “violated the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act with the roundup in the Checkerboard area east and south of Rock Springs.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (3/1, 19K).

Also reporting on the story is the [County 10](#) (2/28).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON RED DESERT COMPLEX WILD HORSE GATHER. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/1, 90K) reports that the BLM is “accepting public comments in preparation for a wild horse gather in the Red Desert Herd Management Area.” According to Kirsten Lenhardt, BLM Wyoming spokeswoman, “the agency expects the Red Desert gather to be much smaller than the Checkerboard gather conducted in late 2014.” Lenhardt, said, “The number of horses has yet to be identified as that will come out of the analysis in the Environmental Assessment. The BLM is currently in the scoping phase.”

Also reporting on the story is the [County 10](#) (3/1).

AROUND 370 WILD HORSES ESTIMATED TO BE ON JOINT LANDS IN FOUR CORNERS. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "federal authorities estimate that around 370 wild horses are roaming on lands jointly managed by the US Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service in the Four Corners." According to the article, "the herds of wild horses roam the Jicarilla Joint Management Area." The BLM Resource Advisory Council is "looking at possible solutions to control the population."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PAN NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/27, 28K) reports that "environmental organizations were quick to pounce on a new resource management plan released Friday by the Bureau of Land Management, calling it flawed, woefully inadequate and a missed opportunity to properly manage development and recreation on public land." The document, "which replaces a resource-management plan that dates to 1983, covers 503,000 surface acres and 300,000 acres of mineral estate beneath nonfederal land in La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, San Juan, Dolores, San Miguel, Hinsdale and Montrose counties." The bureau's "chosen plan, one of four options, struck a middle ground in handling environmental, recreational and commercial issues."

Also reporting on the story is the [Colorado Public Radio](#) (3/1).

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN NEVADA. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (3/1, 155K) reports that the BLM is seeking "input on a new plan that governs how 3.1 million acres of federal lands in Southern Nevada are used." The article notes that "the potential impact of the plan to reshape how public lands are used and accessed has drawn a strong response, as many Nevadans already chafe at the BLM's presence," and "one of the loudest critics has been Cliven Bundy, the rancher who ignited a tense standoff last year with the BLM over the use of federal lands for grazing in rural Clark County."

NEW MEXICO MULLS FEDERAL LAND TRANSFER. The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (3/1, 31K) reports that "sportsman are deeply concerned that efforts at the state legislature to shift control of public lands are being pushed by outside interests and could jeopardize the future of that legacy." If successful, "New Mexico would join several Western states that have expressed frustration with federal management and undertaken exhaustive studies to see if state agencies could take over the reins." The article notes that "in a place like Taos County, which is about half federal lands, the impact would be substantial."

Effort To Transfer Federal Lands Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (3/1, 52K), Riley McClelland writes that "national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands belong to all of us." McClelland argues that "these federal lands are much too important to be managed by state agencies guided by politicians." McClelland concludes that "transferring federal lands to the states would be a mistake that future generations would rue."

BLM APPROVES ATV TRAIL IN SAN JUAN COUNTY. The [AP](#) (3/2) reports that the BLM has "given final approval to plans for a new ATV trail in San Juan County." The move "allows for construction and maintenance of 6.4 miles of ATV trails that will connect designated routes in the Lockhart Basin area to similar routes in the Bridger Jack Mesa area."

BLM PROPOSES MOSQUITO FLATS MINING AND ATV BAN. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (3/1, 39K) reports that the BLM is "considering blocking mining and summer ATV travel in a 30,000 acre block of Fortymile River country." The bureau has "formally proposed creating a protected area called an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the Mosquito Flats, about 20 miles west of the Taylor Highway between Tok and Chicken." Public comment for the proposal closes Tuesday.

AUTOPSY REPORT REVEALS DETAILS OF FATAL SHOOTING BY BLM OFFICERS. [KTNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (3/1, 29K) reports that "more than a year after 20-year-old D'Andre Berghardt was shot and killed by Bureau of Land Management officers at Red Rock Canyon, his family still doesn't have any answers as to why." According to a recently obtained autopsy report, "D'Andre Berghardt's body had 7 bullet holes, 3 broken ribs, a shattered pelvis, and a broken arm when he was examined by the Clark County Coroner after being shot dead by BLM officers after an apparent altercation with BLM and Nevada Highway Patrol troopers."

WATCHDOG SAYS TEST RANGE EXPANSION NEEDS FULL REVIEW. The [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (2/28, 81K) reports that "a longtime watchdog of military activity in Utah's west desert says a proposal to expand the Department of Defense's training range is missing one, very key element: a proper public review process." Steve Erickson, "who works with the Utah Audubon Council and the Great Basin Water Network, says an Air Force proposal to expand the Utah Test and Training Range by nearly 700,000 acres in the rural areas of Box Elder, Juab and Tooele counties is proceeding without proper federal insight and a lack of public

input.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CROP HERBICIDES PLAY A ROLE IN DECLINE OF MONARCH POPULATION. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that “a butterfly being considered for federal protection is emblematic of the plight that pollinating insects face in part because farmers, enticed by ethanol mandates, are growing more herbicide-resistant crops, which has stripped millions of acres of crucial plant habitat.” Herbicide makers claim “they’re committed to helping the black-and-orange insects, whose numbers have plummeted by more than 90 percent in the past two decades.” Meanwhile, “environmentalists seeking protection for monarchs under the Endangered Species Act said restoring milkweed habitat would help other pollinating insects, too, such as honey bees, whose numbers of managed colonies have dropped by more than 4 million beehives since 1947.” The FWS is “taking comments and data about monarchs through March 2, and a decision on whether to list the monarch as threatened is due in December.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/1, 889K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/1, Hollingsworth, 2.28M), the [Washington Post](#) (3/1, 5.17M), the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (2/28, 343K), the [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (3/1, 27K), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/28, 685K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/1, 4.78M), and [WJBK-TV](#) Detroit (3/1, 253K).

Group Files Lawsuit Against EPA Over Drop In Monarch Butterflies. The [National Monitor](#) (2/28) reports that “the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a non-governmental environmental group, has filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in an effort to force the agency’s hand on protection of the Monarch butterfly.” According to a statement by the organization, “EPA’s failure to respond to an urgent petition that sought to limit the use of a pesticide that’s been destroying monarch habitat, filed more than a year ago by NRDC, has resulted in significant ongoing harm to the vulnerable butterfly population.”

Also reporting on the story is [Reuters](#) (2/27).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, TWO STATES FIGHT RENEWED LEGAL PROTECTION FOR GREAT LAKES WOLVES. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that “the Obama administration and two states have given notice of plans to appeal a federal judge’s order that restored legal protection to gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region.” Michigan “filed an appeal document Friday with the US Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., a day after Wisconsin did so.” The FWS “filed notices earlier this month, although a spokeswoman said a final decision on whether to pursue the case would be made by the Department of Justice.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/1, 129K), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M), and [WBUP-TV](#) Marquette, MI (3/1).

FWS SENS CONFISCATED ANIMAL PARTS TO NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROPERTY REPOSITORY. [Newsweek](#) (3/1, 118K) reports on the National Wildlife Property Repository near Denver, where confiscated animal parts are sent by the FWS. The article notes that “only about 200 special agents and wildlife inspectors handle wildlife crime in the US” On February 11, the Interior Department, Justice Department and State Department “released a plan for the ‘National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking,’ in light of the profitable enterprise’s continued growth and its role in breeding organized crime and corruption among government officials.”

AUTHORITIES SAY RECENT UTILITY WORK IS NOT A THREAT TO MANASSAS BALD EAGLES. The [Washington Post](#) (2/27, Barnes, 5.17M) reports that “admirers of a pair of bald eagles that live near Manassas Regional Airport raised alarms recently about the birds’ safety after noticing a real estate sign and utility work on property in the vicinity of the eagles’ nest.” According to the article, “concern about the eagles’ welfare spread quickly through social media and drew the attention of federal, state and local authorities, who responded to fears that the eagles’ habitat might be threatened.” But “after visiting the site, officials said they were satisfied that the eagles — which are protected under federal law — are not in jeopardy.”

OCEANFRONT DEVELOPMENT AT SUNSET BEACH MOVING FORWARD DESPITE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD RULING. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (2/28, 109K) reports that “Sunset Beach West LLC is moving forward with plans to develop oceanfront property at the west end of Sunset Beach although the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners rescinded a plan to provide water and sewer service to the area.” The article notes that “the board’s reversal of its September adoption of the policy came after Sunset Beach Mayor Ron Watts received a letter in January from the US Department of Interior stating that the land proposed

for development is regulated by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, or CBRA.”

BILL WOULD ALLOW KILLING OF PROTECTED BUZZARDS IN TENNESSEE. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/1, 371K) reports that “a state Senate committee has voted to legalize the killing of black buzzards in Tennessee even though they are protected under federal law.” The article notes that “approval of SB204 by the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee came after Charles Hord, executive vice president of the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association, described how the vultures are killing newborn calves across the state and Sen. Paul Bailey displayed photographs showing buzzard damage at his Jackson County home.”

TO CURB BEAR POPULATION, FLORIDA IMPLEMENTS HUNTING SEASON. [NPR](#) (2/28, 1.58M) reports that “for the first time in two decades, Florida officials have scheduled a bear hunting season.” The article notes that “it’s a response to a rise in bear attacks — but it has some environmentalists upset.”

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE OFFICIALS CRITICIZED OVER RED WOLF. The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (2/28, 395K) editorializes that “in 1987 the US Fish and Wildlife Service sought to bring the red wolf back from the edge of extinction by reintroducing about 100 of the animals into five rural counties on a peninsula in northeastern North Carolina.” But “now, on the state level, North Carolina’s Wildlife Resources Commission is trying to do the opposite by urging the world’s only wild population of endangered red wolves into oblivion.” The paper argues that “the Wildlife Resources Commission would betray its mission if it pushes for the red wolf’s extinction.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS, OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKE NUMBERS DIFFER. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/1, 395K) reports that “due to differences in calculating earthquake magnitudes, the Oklahoma Geological Survey reported half as many magnitude 4 and higher earthquakes in Oklahoma last year as the United States Geological Survey reported, records show.” According to the article, “while OGS reports six earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 and higher last year, the USGS reports the state experienced 14 earthquakes in that range.” The article

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM REVIEWING COMMENTS ON DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN . The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/1, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the BLM has “received at least 12,000 public comments” on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, “including notable critiques from the renewable industry and US EPA.” According to public comments on the draft plan, “it needs a lot of work.” The article notes that “while many comments submitted over the last four months commend the Obama administration’s efforts to properly site renewables projects, they also raise serious concerns about impacts to air quality, sensitive wildlife habitat and migratory birds.”

BOEM PREPARES FOR NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE. The [Recharge News](#) (3/1, 633) reports that the BOEM is “moving ahead with a competitive wind lease sale off the coast of New Jersey, even though the state has failed since 2011 to enact a market mechanism to incentivize the sector as required by law.”

Onshore Energy Development:

RESEARCHERS LOOKING FOR MIDDLE GROUND IN EARTHQUAKE-FRACKING DEBATE IN TEXAS. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (3/1, Kuchment, 1.13M) details how some researchers are “looking for middle ground” in the Earthquake-fracking “debate” in Texas. Specifically, experts “are investigating ways to prevent wells from causing damaging earthquakes without hindering most oil and gas operations.”

FRACKING CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE WEBSITE ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENTS. [NPR](#) (2/27, Cusick, 1.58M) reported, “The groups managing the national fracking chemical disclosure website FracFocus say they are planning improvements to make information more transparent.” The Ground Water Protection Council and Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission are reportedly responding to criticism from environmental groups and open government groups. Pennsylvania is one of 14 states that requires gas drillers to use the website as

part of its chemical disclosure laws. The way information is reported "makes it difficult for researchers to analyze," NPR reported. The groups promised more transparency and an easier reading experience regarding chemicals used in fracking.

COLORADO FRACKING TASK FORCE PROPOSES RULES TO GOVERNOR. [NPR](#) (2/27, Boyce, 1.58M) reported that following months of deliberations, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's task force came out with recommendations to the governor. "Task force member and vice president of operations at Anadarko Petroleum, Brad Holly, says the majority of Coloradans are satisfied with most of the state's drilling," NPR reported. The task force's nine recommendations now await approval from the governor and, in some cases, the state legislature, the article reported.

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. In continuing coverage of the Obama Administration's offshore drilling proposal, [Roll Call](#) (3/1, Subscription Publication, 102K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "emphasized at a recent hearing that the draft proposed plan is just the first of several steps taken before Interior issues a final five-year drilling strategy, with or without an Atlantic option." From there, the Interior Department will "narrow down even further which areas in the approved drilling blocks will actually be offered for leasing." Jewel said, "This is like the top of the funnel, if you will. Only things that are included there could possibly happen during that five-year period."

[Roll Call](#) (2/27, Gardner, Subscription Publication, 102K) reports that "the Obama administration's recent proposal to lease oil and gas drilling in a swath of the Atlantic Ocean generated the expected mix of cheers and jeers on Capitol Hill, but local reaction was mostly divided along state borders rather than party affiliations." The article notes that "Marylanders are reluctant, while Virginians appear to want to charge ahead, especially if it might mean more cash in their state coffers."

GULF STATES CRITICIZE PROPOSAL TO SHARE OIL ROYALTIES. [The Hill](#) (3/1, Cama, 224K) reports that "Gulf Coast lawmakers are up in arms over an Obama administration proposal to reduce the money that their states receive for offshore oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico." President Obama "proposed in his budget early in February to roll back a 2006 law that, beginning in 2017, would give the Gulf states up to \$375 million a year out of the earnings federal government collects from drillers." Sen. Bill Cassidy "used a Feb. 24 budget hearing to tear into Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for trying to take away money for which he and other lawmakers in the region had fought hard."

DREDGING PROJECT AIMS TO PROTECT VIRGINIA SHORELINE. The [Marine Technology](#) (3/1) reports that the BOEM and Naval Air Station Oceana at Dam Neck, Virginia "expect to begin a shore protection project at the Dam Neck annex within the next month." BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, "BOEM recognizes the important defense mission NAS Oceana carries out for the nation, and is pleased to contribute to the protection of its valuable assets with sand from federal waters. Other benefits include maintaining coastal resilience, protecting the environment, and enabling the regional economy."

APPEALS PANEL PULLS FALSE CLAIMS ACT CASE FROM HOUSTON FEDERAL JUDGE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/27, George, 2.28M) reports that "a Houston federal judge who has been accused of unfairly stalling a federal whistle-blower lawsuit for years has been removed from the case by the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals for ignoring its instructions." A three-judge panel determined that the case, which was filed by two government auditors who accused Shell Exploration of fraud under the False Claims Act, "should be assigned to a jurist other than US District Judge Lynn Hughes."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SOME CALIFORNIA FARMERS TO GO ANOTHER YEAR WITHOUT FEDERAL WATER. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that "for a second straight year, the federal government said Friday it won't send any of its reservoir water to the Central Valley, forcing farmers in California's agricultural heartland to again scramble for other sources or leave fields unplanted." The article notes that "many farmers had been bracing for the US Bureau of Reclamation's announcement as California's drought enters its fourth year." However, "many farmers are running out of short-term options such as uprooting orchards and tapping groundwater wells to deal with water shortages."

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/27, 113K) reports that BOR Mid-Pacific Regional Director Davis Murillo said,

"The rain events in December were encouraging, but the persistently dry weather (since then) underscores our need to plan for another critical year of drought."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [New York Times](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/1, 988K), the [Bristol \(TN/VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/1, 85K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/27, Nirappil, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/1, 4.78M), [Fox News](#) (2/28, 8.25M), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/27, 685K), and [WJBK-TV](#) Detroit (3/1, 253K).

Also reporting on the story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [NPR](#) (3/1, 1.58M), [TIME](#) (3/1, 19.19M), [Reuters](#) (2/27), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/27, Boxall, Pierson, 3.49M), the [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (3/1, 1K), [KFSN-TV](#) Fresno, CA (3/1, 2K), [KGPE-TV](#) Fresno, CA (3/1, 46), [KBFX-TV](#) Bakersfield, CA (3/1, 2K), [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (2/27, 1K), [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (3/1, 15K), [KXTV-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (2/27, 45K), [KQED-FM](#) San Francisco (2/27, 17K), and [KERO-TV](#) Bakersfield, CA (3/1, 2K).

NEW CALIFORNIA WATER LEGISLATION UNDER WORKS. The [McClatchy](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that "California water legislation is starting to trickle across Capitol Hill." The article notes that "one newly introduced bill would speed approval of Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley. Another would help restore San Francisco Bay habitat," and "ore targeted bills are coming."

CENTRAL VALLEY, DELTA WATER RIGHTS UNDER SCRUTINY. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/2, 547K) reports that "hundreds of property owners across California's Central Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are scrambling to prove they have a right to divert water from the region's streams, the result of a state order that comes due in just four days." The article notes that "the dispute stems from a complaint filed in July by the California Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation, which operate the massive water diversion systems in the Delta as well as major upstream reservoirs." According to the article, "the two agencies suspect water released from their reservoirs is being inappropriately diverted by property owners in the Delta as it flows past their land."

BOR EXPANDING WINTER AQUIFER RECHARGE IN UPPER SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/27, 113K) reports that the BOR is "expanding winter aquifer recharge in the Upper Snake River system, though the watershed's once strong snowpack has dropped to near normal levels due to continued dry weather in February."

NEW MEMBERS JOIN LAKE BERRYESSA ADVISORY GROUP. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/1, 46K) reports that "new members are joining a group that advises the US Bureau of Reclamation on its efforts to renovate the Lake Berryessa recreation experience." The BOR is "amid a multi-year, controversial effort to remake the resorts along the lake's federally owned shoreline." The bureau "announced the latest configuration of the group after requesting nominations."

SOUTHWEST FACES WATER ISSUES. The [Arizona Republic](#) (2/28, 1.14M) editorializes that "a Colorado River diminished by climate change impacts all of the Southwest, urban and rural alike." It notes that "late last year, Arizona's supplier of Colorado River water, the Central Arizona Project, entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, Nevada and California to 'bank' water in Lake Mead to keep it from receding to a level that could prove disastrous to all three states."

Additional coverage of water issues in the Southwest was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/27, 1.14M) and the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/27, 1.14M).

SEN. GARDNER PRESSES FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT FUNDING. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (3/1, 79K) editorializes that Sen. Cory Gardner "pressed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Mike Connor last week about a disturbing lack of federal funds for the Arkansas Valley Conduit." Gardner asserted that "the conduit must remain a priority with the Bureau of Reclamation." The editorial "couldn't agree more, and thank the senator for taking such a strong stance on our behalf."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN TESTIFIES AT SENATE HEARING ON FEDERAL BUDGET. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/1, 49K) reports that Sen. John Barrasso, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs "pointed out the fact that the United States faces a continued federal deficit and tight budgets, before acknowledging the federal government's important responsibilities to Indian people," during

a hearing on President Barack Obama's FY2016 Budget Request for Indian Programs. Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn “expanded on the President’s budget, stating it seeks increases across more than 20 Federal departments and agencies serving Indian country totaling some \$20.8 billion, a \$1.5 billion or 8 percent increase over 2015’s budget.” Washburn said, “These increases support improved access to federal programs and resources, particularly focused on youth through the Administration’s newly established Generation Indigenous initiative. Investments like these will provide real and sustainable improvements in Indian country.”

HOUSE APPROVES REP. NOLAN’S AMENDMENT FOR TRIBAL SCHOOLS. The [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (3/1, 2K) reports that “the US House of Representatives Thursday approved US Rep. Rick Nolan’s amendment to H.R. 5 – the Student Success Act – putting Congress on record that Indian children will not have to attend school in buildings that are dilapidated and dangerous.” In his remarks on the House Floor, Nolan “invoked the plight of Minnesota’s Bug O Nay Ge Shig School on the Leech Lake reservation.” Nolan said, “This amendment puts the Congress of the United States on the record with its commitment to ensure that Indian children do not have to attend schools that are falling apart. However, the Student Success Act is strongly opposed among teachers and the academic community, and would need significant improvement before I could lend my full support to the measure.”

Also reporting on the story is [KBJR-TV Duluth, MN](#) (3/1, 2K).

In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/2, 1.37M) urges support for the proposals by a working group of American Indian leaders and educators to improve tribal schools.

CHEROKEE NATION WELCOMES BIA’S INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINE REVISION. The [Cherokee Nation \(OK\)](#) (2/27, 1K) reports that Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn “addressed tribal leaders, including Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief S. Joe Crittenden, on the revision of Indian Child Welfare Act guidelines for state courts.” Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said, “The Cherokee Nation applauds Mr. Washburn and his staff for taking the time to listen to the concerns of tribes and Indian families. The Cherokee Nation, along with many other tribes and Indian organizations, submitted comments to the BIA on the need for updated guidelines following the case of *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*.”

LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE CHAIRMAN JANDREAU DISMISSES ALLEGATIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT. The [AP](#) (2/28) reports that “amid calls for more transparency, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Chairman Michael Jandreau is pushing back against allegations from a nonprofit group that leaders on the reservation misdirected millions of dollars in federal funding intended to help impoverished tribal members.” Jandreau said that “he denies any wrongdoing related to the Human Rights Watch investigation, which accuses him and others of diverting money and concealing financial activity by withholding government documents from the public.” Jandreau said “the report is based on the views of his political opponents and that he’s worked throughout his career to make life on the reservation better.”

INDIAN GAMBLING COMPACT MOVE FORWARD IN NEW MEXICO. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/1, 39K) reports that “after a near nine-hour hearing, a legislative committee voted overwhelmingly to recommend a proposed gambling compact with five New Mexico Indian tribes.” According to the article, “the new compact, which now goes to the state Senate for approval, would reduce regulatory fees for tribes but raise the percentage of revenue sharing that gambling tribes pay to the state.”

The piece also appears at the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (3/1, 31K).

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES GATHER TO DISCUSS LEGALIZING MARIJUANA. The [AP](#) (2/28, Johnson) reports “Tribal representatives from around the country are converging in Washington state to discuss the risks and rewards of marijuana legalization.” The AP says that dozens of tribes will be attending the conference at the Tulalip Indian Tribe’s resort in the Seattle area and that a variety of marijuana-related topics will be discussed.

INDIAN TRIBES RAISE REVENUES THROUGH HIGH-INTEREST LOANS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Harlan, 5.17M) reports on its front page that high-interest online loans, with annualized interest rates as high as 780 percent, are being sold online by Indian tribes “in what they describe as a last-ditch attempt to earn revenue and provide decent lives for their members.” With “some two-dozen tribes now offering installment and payday loans, Native Americans have found themselves wrestling with the merits of this lifeline.” Tribes “capitalize on their right to govern themselves in an otherwise tightly regulated industry,” but in this case, “revenue is earned from borrowers who are charged interest rates that sometimes are double what they’d find in a brick-and-mortar payday store.”

CHUKCHANSI GROUP MEETS BIA'S RULING FOR NAMING COUNCIL. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/27, 323K) reports that "the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians seated a tribal council Thursday that mirrors the 2010 elected council." The article notes that "in so doing, the tribe followed a directive" by the BIA

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CASINO PLANS OF LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS.

Additional coverage that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians "proposes to build a \$180 million casino, hotel and retail development" was provided by the [MLive](#) (3/1, 525K).

TRIBES COULD SEEK SELF-REGULATION STATUS. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/1, 49K), attorney Joseph H. Webster writes that "when Congress enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988 (IGRA), it included an important provision to allow for self-regulation of Class II gaming by tribal governments that established a record of successful gaming regulation." Webster says that "each tribe will need to decide for itself whether to seek self-regulation status." However, he concludes that "the new Part 518 finally makes self-regulation a viable option for tribes that would like to assert greater autonomy over the regulation of their Class II gaming operations."

Top National News:

KERRY MOVES TO LOWER POLITICAL TENSION AROUND NETANYAHU SPEECH TO CONGRESS.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's upcoming speech to Congress dominated discussion on the Sunday morning political shows, with officials breaking largely along party lines in their assessment of whether his trip helps or hinders the prospects for peace in the region. [AFP](#) (3/2, Revise), for example, refers to an "infuriated" White House, with "Netanyahu's allies in Congress...as outspoken as ever, insisting that Obama...was to blame for the recent discord." The controversy surrounding the speech, notes [USA Today](#) (3/2, Welch, 10.32M), has "American Jewish leaders and activists...worried about widening political divisions between Israel and the White House" after the "strident objections" to the speech by President Obama, who, according to the [AP](#) (3/2, Pace, Lee), has been on "on a collision course" with Netanyahu for six years. Further illustrating the polarization of the debate, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/1, Weigel, 169K) notes the Prime Minister's trip coincides with this year's AIPAC conference, and quotes the group's chairman, Howard Kohr, as saying, "Thank goodness for Congress!"

In what print reports later cast as an Administration attempt to lower the rhetoric surrounding the speech, Secretary of State Kerry touted the US-Israeli relationship on [ABC's This Week](#) – even as he continued to complain that the Administration had been kept in the dark about the Prime Minister's plans. Kerry "tried to lower the temperature," says the [New York Times](#) (3/1, Cooper, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), noting that he also "spoke by phone with...Netanyahu on Saturday." In a similar analysis, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/2, Mascaro, 3.49M) says the Secretary "sought...to tamp down the controversy," and the [AP](#) (3/2, Klapper) casts him as seeking "to calm tensions" and taking "a step back from some of the sharp rhetoric between the allies in recent weeks."

A number of reports, including the ones by [Politico](#) (3/1, Munsil, 669K) and [Reuters](#) (3/2, Spetalnick, Williams), contrast Kerry's remarks with those of National Security Adviser Susan Rice last week, when she called the Prime Minister's planned speech "destructive to the fabric of US-Israeli ties." [The Hill](#) (3/2, Hensch, 224K) reports, for example, the Secretary "contradicted" those remarks yesterday. Kerry told [ABC's This Week](#) (3/1, Raddatz, 2.73M), "The Prime Minister of Israel is welcome to speak in the United States, obviously. We have a closer relationship with Israel right now, in terms of security, than at any time in history. ... I talk to the Prime Minister regularly. We don't want to see this turned into some great political football. Obviously, it was odd, if not unique, that we learned of [Netanyahu's speech] from the Speaker of the House. The Administration was not included in this process. But the Administration is not seeking to politicize this. We want to recognize the main goal here is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. On that, Israel and the United States agree."

Speaker Boehner said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), "Why does the White House feel threatened because Congress wants to support Israel and wants to hear what a trusted ally has to say? It has been, frankly, remarkable to me the extent to which the White House has attacked the Prime Minister and me over the last five or six weeks. ... The animosity between the White House and the Prime Minister is no secret here in this town. ... The Administration has certainly made it worse over the last five or six weeks. ... Iran is a threat to the region, a threat to the United States, and a threat to the rest of the world. This is a serious issue. We're not going to resolve this issue by sticking our heads in the sand. The Prime Minister can talk about this threat, I believe, better than anyone. The United States Congress wants to hear from him and so do the

American people.”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/1, Knickerbocker, 380K) says Boehner’s invitation to Netanyahu was “widely seen as a snub to the Democratic White House...at a time when” his “position was threatened by a growing insurgency within his own caucus.” Moreover, the invitation “had the added benefit of putting congressional Democrats in the difficult position of being players in the Republican effort to tweak the White House while cheering a nation seen to have a uniquely close and politically powerful relationship with the US.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/1, story 6, 1:35, Alexander, 7.86M) noted that “nearly 30 Democratic lawmakers plan to boycott Netanyahu’s...speech before Congress, as well as Vice President Biden.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/1, story 5, 0:30, Glor, 5.08M) noted last night that Netanyahu had arrived in Washington ahead of his speech to Congress on Tuesday, during which “he will make his case against the deal on Iran’s nuclear program.” Jeff Glor added that Kerry left for Switzerland on Sunday “for more talks on Iran.” As he left Israel for DC, the [AP](#) (3/2, Heller) reports, Netanyahu said yesterday, “I feel deep and genuine concern for the security of all the people of Israel,” and “will do everything in my ability to secure our future.” The Prime Minister “called the trip a ‘fateful and even historic mission’ and said he feels like ‘an emissary’ of the Jewish people.” In Israel, [Politico](#) (3/1, Dove, Crowley, 669K) reported, Netanyahu’s “throwdown with America is a top news story every day of the week,” with “his opponents, who’ve been trying to focus the election on social and domestic issues,” attacking him “for trying to turn his bad relationship with Obama into a bad relationship between Israel and America.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/1, Wilkie, 281K) similarly reported that “for many in Washington and Tel Aviv...Netanyahu’s upcoming speech is...overtly political,” offering “Republicans a chance to jab the president by putting one of Obama’s most powerful critics on a major podium” and giving Netanyahu “a ready-made campaign ad.”

Isaac Herzog, chairman of the Israeli Labor Party and a member of the Knesset, said on [CNN’s Fared Zakaria GPS](#) (3/1, 410K), “Let me make it clear to the American public: There is no difference in Israel as to the strategic threat that emanates from the Iranian nuclear program. Clearly, no Israeli leader will ever accept a nuclear Iran. However, the way to deal with it, in my mind, should be different. I think Netanyahu’s speech in Congress is a mistake. We need to work together intimately with those negotiating with the international agreement with Iran and make sure that this agreement is ironclad on delivery – namely, so that there will never be an Iranian nuclear bomb. When arguments emanate, such as the arguments surrounding the speech of Netanyahu in Congress, there are questions that are raised. There is daylight between us and the Administration and that’s not good.”

Former Israeli Ambassador to the US Michael Oren, who is running against Netanyahu as a candidate with the Israeli Kulanu party, said on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), “[Netanyahu and I] have a lot of differences in housing, economy, even on the peace process. Yes, I did say publicly that the Prime Minister could speak somewhere else and, perhaps, not intercede between the White House and the Congress or between Democrats and Republicans. ... On the issue of Iran there is no daylight between Prime Minister Netanyahu and myself and others. We all see Iran with nuclear arms as an existential threat against Israel. ... This is not a country that anybody wants to see have the ability, even in the future, to create a nuclear weapon.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Eglash, Booth, 5.17M) notes concerns about the speech from Israeli war veterans, noting “a group of 180 retired Israeli generals and former top security officials warned that” it “will cause more harm than good.” The organization, Commanders for Israel’s Security, “claims to be apolitical,” and “was created last year to push Netanyahu forward on a regional peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict with the Palestinians.” Under the headline “Retired Israeli Generals Denounce Planned Netanyahu Speech,” the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, A1, Casey, Mitnick, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) also reports on the commanders’ concerns in a front-page story.

Jackson Diehl writes in the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, 5.17M) that “Netanyahu’s gambit supposes that Obama’s Mideast policies have so alienated Israelis that he will be rewarded rather than punished in the March 17 election for a frontal attack on the White House.” But “by some measures, the wager looks risky,” because while Israelis “oppose Obama’s policies,” they also place a high value on the US-Israel relationship, with only the Israeli army outranking “ties to the United States in importance when Israelis are asked what guarantees their safety.” Alon Gratch, an Israeli-American author, clinical psychologist and “organizational consultant,” argues in [USA Today](#) (3/2, 10.32M) that while politics and animus between Netanyahu and Obama may be at play in the controversy, “there is something else at work here: how the Jewish state has processed, or failed to process, the trauma of the Holocaust,” which “has become the central building block of the national identity of many Israelis.” That “national preoccupation” involves “twin emotions of anxiety and rage, along with the refusal or inability to tolerate any feelings of helplessness.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Klimas, 644K) reports that "tickets for non-members" of Congress "to get in to see" Netanyahu "are proving to be a very hot item." Said GOP Rep. Tim Walberg, "I could scalp that ticket, there are so many people who want it." [USA Today](#) (3/2, Korte, 10.32M) says "Netanyahu's address to Congress is not the only high-stakes speech this week." The Administration "is sending two officials," Rice and Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, to the AIPAC conference. They are "the lowest-ranking officials Obama has ever sent to the pro-Israel lobbying conference."

Feinstein Will Attend Speech, But Says Netanyahu "Doesn't Speak For Me." Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "I intend to go [to Netanyahu's speech] and I'll listen respectfully. I don't intend to jump up and down. I hope he'll speak about what happens if there isn't an agreement. I hope he'll speak about what happens if the United States isn't part of the agreement. ... I happen to believe Israel is a lot safer with an agreement that includes all of the big powers." Feinstein said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), "I am very concerned by that speech. I went to the speech in 2011. I didn't believe it was helpful then and I don't believe it's going to be helpful now." Feinstein, notes the [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Miller, 644K), also called Netanyahu "'arrogant'...for saying he would represent the 'entire Jewish people' when he warns Congress about the nuclear deal being brokered with Iran." Added Feinstein, "He doesn't speak for me."

The [Daily Caller](#) (3/1, Griswold, 318K) noted that on NBC's "Meet the Press," former Sen. Joe Lieberman "attacked Democrats refusing to attend...Netanyahu's speech," saying "they were the ones 'making it partisan.'"

The [New York Times](#) (3/2, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that throughout recent history, "Jews in Congress – and to a large extent, Jews in the United States – have spoken in a near-monolithic voice, always in support of the government of Israel." However, the "Boehner-Netanyahu alliance has done something that larger foreign policy crises have not: It has led to the open distinction between support for the State of Israel and allegiance to politicians who lead it."

Schumer: "I Don't Trust These Iranians." [The Hill](#) (3/1, Bymes, 224K) reported that in an interview with John Catsimatidis on AM 970's "The Cats Roundtable," Sen. Chuck Schumer said Sunday that "regardless of controversy over...Netanyahu's address," the US "must make sure Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon." Said Schumer, "My view is that it has to be a really tough inspection regime, because I don't trust these Iranians."

Perry, Huckabee Defend Netanyahu, Criticize Administration. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry stated on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "The real issue here is that our Administration is not working with and not sending a clear message that we respect our ally and we're going to be standing with them. Israel feels very vulnerable at this particular point in time because of the feckless foreign policy we've seen out of this Administration. ... Obviously, there are continuing negotiations with Iran. So I totally understand why Prime Minister Netanyahu feels it's important for him to come and to express his concerns about what's going on in front of the United States Congress. I'm glad he is."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), "Israel is the canary in the coal mine. If something happens to Israel, that's not the end of it. That is the beginning. ... We need to recognize that valuable strategic role that Israel plays in our own safety. This isn't just about Israel. This is about the safety of the United States."

Poll: US Public Disapproves Of Boehner's Invitation By 48%-30% Margin. [The Hill](#) (3/1, Hensch, 224K) noted that according to a new NBC News/WSJournal poll, 48% "said Boehner should have notified...Obama of his invitation" to Netanyahu, while 30% believe "Boehner's gesture was appropriate" and "another 22 percent did not feel informed enough to answer." The poll also found that "66 percent of Democrats dislike" Netanyahu's "appearance, while only 28 percent of Republicans responded that way." As the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Ballhaus, 5.67M) reports, 47% of Republicans approve of Boehner's invitation, while only 12% of Democrats do.

In Remarks To AIPAC, Graham Threatens To Cut UN Funding. The [Huffington Post](#) (3/1, Schulberg, 281K) reports that in remarks to AIPAC yesterday morning, Sen. Lindsey Graham "threatened to cut funding to the United Nations, who he believes is alienating Israel in the international community and tolerating anti-Semitism in Europe." Graham's "promise was met with applause and a standing ovation by the nearly 15,000 AIPAC members in attendance."

Kuwaiti Paper: Obama Threatened To Shoot Down Israeli Planes If They Attacked Iranian Nuclear Facilities. In a story that was prominently displayed on the [Drudge Report](#) most of the day Sunday, [Israel](#)

National News (3/1, Apple, 10K) noted that “the Bethlehem-based news agency Ma’an has cited” the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida reporting Saturday that Obama “thwarted an Israeli military attack against Iran’s nuclear facilities in 2014 by threatening to shoot down Israeli jets before they could reach their targets in Iran.” Obama’s threat reportedly “forced” Netanyahu “to abort the planned Iran attack.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Shapiro, 644K) says the Al-Jarida report cites “well placed” sources confirming that “an unnamed Israeli minister disclosed the plan to...Kerry,” who passed it on to Obama. The [Daily Caller](#) (3/1, Griswold, 318K) called the story “shocking,” though it added that “at least some are skeptical of Al-Jarida’s report,” adding that “one reporter for the conservative Jewish Press notes the story ‘appears at first glance to be an invention of an imaginative editor.’”

WPost A1: Netanyahu Would See Clinton As Improvement Over Obama. Citing former Ambassador Oren – among others – as its source, the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, A1, Gearan, 5.17M) recounts on its front page a 45-minute phone conversation between Hillary Clinton and Netanyahu, in which the then-secretary of State “lectured the Israeli leader, accusing him of trying to do an end run around American opposition to settlement-building and embarrassing Vice President Biden during a visit to Israel.” Oren says, “The word ‘humiliation’ appeared very prominently. ... As in ‘You have humiliated the United States of America.’” The Post adds that “should Clinton win the presidency in 2016, her long and complicated history with Netanyahu will enter a new phase,” and old issues “will almost certainly still fester.” While “from Netanyahu’s perspective, Clinton would be an improvement over...Obama...there is also little doubt that Netanyahu would prefer a more hawkish Republican in the White House.”

NYTimes A1: Kerry’s “Relentless Negotiating Style” Encourages Backers, Concerns Opponents. With Kerry in Switzerland to continue his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, the [New York Times](#) (3/2, A1, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on its front page that the Secretary, with a “laserlike focus on getting an accord” that “has unnerved Israel and prompted concerns in Saudi Arabia and other Arab foes of Tehran,” has become “a driving force behind the complicated, seven-nation talks to limit Iran’s nuclear program,” and his “relentless negotiating style and determination to engage with Mr. Zarif have become part of the debate.” In fact, to the deal’s proponents, “Kerry’s determination has made all the difference,” while “to critics,” his “eagerness is an open invitation for the Iranians to press for concessions as the talks enter the final stage.” The Times adds that with both sides appearing “to get down to business,” Ali Akbar Salehi, the director of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, and Energy Secretary Moniz “are also expected to be at the Montreux negotiations.”

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Takeyh, 5.17M), Ray Takeyh, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that “on the surface,” there “is not much that commends Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei,” but he is a “first-rate strategic genius who is patiently negotiating his way to a bomb.” Khamenei “seems to appreciate that his most advantageous path to nuclear arms is through an agreement,” and he has worn down Western negotiators, who “grew wobbly” over time.

Iran Allows Detained WPost Reporter To Have Lawyer, But Not One Of His Choice. The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Depillis, 5.17M) reports that Jason Rezaian, a Washington Post reporter “imprisoned in Iran,” has been given “access to an attorney — but not the one of his choosing.” His family said that their “preferred attorney was blocked by the country’s Revolutionary Court, which last week had given them a deadline of March 2 to present one that was ‘acceptable.’” Rezaian has been held for more than 220 days.

GOP LEADERS CALL FOR HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE ON DHS FUNDING BILL. House GOP leaders took to the airways yesterday to defend their actions during the ongoing DHS funding standoff, and called on Senate Democrats to support a conference to iron out the differences between the chambers. Media reports this morning, however, continue to cast Republicans as playing defense on the issue and still hopelessly split. The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, A1, Debonis, Kane, 5.17M), for example, reports on its front page that by late last night, House GOP leaders “had no clear path to a solution other than retreating from their demands,” and describes Republicans as “too divided to resolve the crisis.” Illustrating that division, House Homeland Security Committee member Peter King said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/1, Raddatz, 2.73M), “There’s an element within our party, a wing within the Congress, which is absolutely irresponsible. They have no concept of reality.” Calling these lawmakers “self-righteous and delusional,” King added, “Listen, I am as opposed to the President’s immigration action as they are. But the fact is, it’s essential that we fund” DHS, and “for these people to be threatening to defund the Department...at a time when the threat streams have never been greater at any time since 9/11, it’s absolutely irresponsible.”

Echoing that sentiment in an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) accuses Republicans of walking into a White House trap by engaging Obama in a fight they were almost sure to lose.

The Journal calls on GOP to act as a governing party – rather than limiting itself to making political statements with its newly enlarged majority. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/2, Sherry, 1.37M) notes that freshmen Rep. Tom Emmer, on Saturday, also criticized his party's right wing, stating, "I am disappointed that many of my colleagues chose to put the security of Americans at stake and waste time playing politics."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/1, Sappenfield, 380K) recounted that on Friday, "conservatives once again threw the House into chaos when they refused to go along" with Speaker Boehner's proposed three-week funding extension, something the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, A1, Debonis, Kane, 5.17M), [Politico](#) (3/1, Raju, Sherman, Bresnahan, 669K) and the [AP](#) (3/2, Hefling) all term a "humiliating defeat" for the leadership. But as the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/2, Mascaro, 3.49M) reports, the GOP leaders who "flooded the Sunday TV talk shows" following passage of a one-week extension "offered no certain path forward to avoid a continued standoff and a repeat of the rebuke they faced from their own members," and the [AP](#) (3/2, Hefling) indicates a "partial shutdown of the department" remains "possible at week's end." The House GOP leaders "and conservatives," says the [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Miller, 644K) in a similar analysis, "were in rare agreement Sunday, declaring that there was no deal to vote on a 'clean' Department of Homeland Security funding bill and vowing to keep fighting."

Boehner, for example, cautioned on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M) that he has "made it clear we're going to do everything we could to block the President's executive overreach." [Reuters](#) (3/2, Bartz) quotes Boehner as also saying, "We do have some members who disagree from time to time over the tactics that we decide to employ. But remember that Republicans are united in this idea that the president has far exceeded his constitutional authority." Boehner, said [Politico](#) (3/1, Munsill, 669K), "called the House a 'rambunctious place,' adding its 435 members have differing ideas on what Congress should – and shouldn't – be doing." [Roll Call](#) (3/1, Dumain, 102K), meanwhile, noted on its website that Boehner also said that today, the House will "follow regular order," and added that "there is a provision tucked deep inside the House rule book that would allow any House Democrat to force a vote on a 'clean' DHS funding bill, like the six-month measure passed by the Senate."

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (3/1, Todd, 3.08M) that Democrats "created the cliff," adding that the GOP position is "let's go to conference." Obama "doesn't want to work with the American public. He's creating these problems when we're trying to work it out. The best thing that can happen is we go to conference and we settle our differences." McCarthy continued on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (3/1, Todd, 3.08M), "Let me make one point very clear. The first priority of the Republican majority is the security of America." Regarding the division within the Republican party, McCarthy added, "We have a difference of opinion on strategy and tactics, but in principle we are united." McCarthy, noted [The Hill](#) (3/1, Bymes, 224K), also appeared to call on the Senate to "invoke the so-called 'nuclear option' to allow spending bills to only require a simple majority to advance instead of 60 votes." The [Daily Caller](#) (3/1, Ross, 318K), meanwhile, indicated the House Majority Leader has urged voters "to 'light up the Senate switchboard' in order to make Democrats 'feel the heat.'"

House Whip Steve Scalise said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/1, Wallace), "What we did is passed a bill that now forces the Senate to vote on going to conference. We actually passed a bill that pushes back on the President's illegal actions on immigration. The Senate made changes to that bill that we don't like. The way Congress works when the House and Senate have a disagreement is you go to conference. So, on Monday, the Senate will be taking that vote." Scalise added on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/1, Wallace), "I would urge Senate Democrats to stop blocking our actions, to stand with the court and stand with the Constitution. Let's go enforce the rule of law." Scalise, noted [The Hill](#) (3/1, Shabad, 224K), also "rejected rumors that GOP leaders struck a deal with Democratic leaders to bring a 'clean' bill, telling Fox News, "There is no such deal and there's no such bill." [Politico](#) (3/1, Munsil, 669K) reported Scalise "also expressed support for...Boehner," saying, "He's speaker, he's going forward, and he's working hard to get our agenda moved through the House."

House "Freedom Caucus" Chairman Jim Jordan said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "We want be to fund [DHS]...but we don't want to fund something that everyone knows is unconstitutional. Legal scholars on the right and left have said [Obama's executive actions on immigration are] unconstitutional and a Federal judge has said it's unlawful. ... The Democrats are insisting on being able to still spend money on something everyone knows is unconstitutional. ... We're even willing, in spite of all of that, to sit down and work out the differences. That's all the House asked for. That's what the conservatives wanted. Let's go to conference." Jordan continued on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "We're most interested in adhering to the principles that are consistent with the Constitution. We're most interested in doing what the voters elected us to do in November."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), however, notes that King said on CNN that there is "no doubt" the House will pass a clean DHS funding bill this week,

Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "What they have done is they've put the President's executive order on top of a must-pass national security bill. Their strategy is to ram it through. Our position is that it should be a clean bill and should fund the DHS through the fiscal year. You can't keep doing these things by continuing resolutions because the Department loses money, particularly in regards to local law enforcement grants."

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Richard Shelby said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo](#) (3/1), "What we're trying to do is get a vote on some riders that came from the House. We haven't been able to do that yet. There's a lot of opposition to funding Homeland Security without passing the riders. I have voted for them and will continue to do so. What we're trying to do is reign in a runaway president, a president that basically disregarded the Constitution."

"Senior Democrats": Party Unlikely To Join Conservative Rebellion To Oust Boehner. Focusing on the "familiar dilemma" facing House GOP leaders, the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, A1, Debonis, Kane, 5.17M) reports they "know their party is too divided to resolve the crisis on its own but fear the political fallout if they rely on Democrats to get them out of the jam." If Republicans gave up on their demands, meanwhile, there is talk that "Freedom Caucus" conservatives may seek Boehner's ouster, a move that would put his "fate in the hands of Democrats." With "possibly 30 or more Republicans" possibly voting "to oust the speaker," Democrats "would have enough votes to throw him out of office if they wanted," though "senior Democratic aides said that's not likely to happen, mostly because of the precedent it would set – essentially allowing the other party to choose their leadership ranks."

AP Analysis: More "Stretches Of Brinkmanship" Likely This Year. The [AP](#) (3/2, Taylor) remarks on the "Congress' dysfunction," which "isn't limited to the struggle to keep" DHS running and suggests similar "stretches of brinkmanship are certain to consume much of the legislative calendar in 2015," including the upcoming clashes on the debt limit, the Ex-Im Bank, "Medicare payments to physicians, preventing a cutoff of highway and transit dollars in the middle of peak construction season this summer and renewing critical parts of the Patriot Act."

CSSMONITOR ANALYSIS: JOB MARKET MAKING SOLID PROGRESS. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/1, Trumbull, 380K) writes that the US job market today is "healthier than you might realize." Still, the "recovery is incomplete" and "even a good job market today won't mean conditions are easy for US workers." Overall, though, the improved job market is "helping to address one of the defining features of the Great Recession and its aftermath: the large number of people who are long-term unemployed and in many cases at risk of dropping out of the workforce altogether."

Ultimate Magnitude Of Fed Rate Hikes Uncertain. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Hilsenrath, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that as the markets wait for a firm signal on when the Fed will start to raise rates, a longer-term, but vital, question is where they will ultimately end up. While the Fed has strongly hinted that rates will be increased in the second half of this year, it remains unclear how high the Fed will allow them to rise. Overall, the Journal says that Fed policy makers appear to favor a higher rate than the markets expect, a potential source of long-term trouble.

Nasdaq Nears Level Not Seen Since Dotcom Bubble. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/1, story 6, 2:00, Glor, 5.08M) reported that the NASDAQ composite index "has almost completed its epic climb back. Last week the index nearly hit 5,000, where it hasn't been since the dotcom bubble burst 15 years ago." In the following three years, the index "fell 80 percent."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Congress's Critical Role On Trade." The [New York Times](#) (3/2, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, says that the US and 11 other countries "could conclude...the Trans-Pacific Partnership in the coming months," and members of Congress "should make sure that this and other deals being negotiated are good for America." Congress, it argues, "has a responsibility to give the American negotiators...clear instructions on what it would like to see in the agreement."

"Painkiller Abuses And Ignorance." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/2, Subscription Publication,

9.97M) writes that the “epidemic of deaths and addiction attributable to opioid painkillers continues unabated even as an authoritative new review of scientific studies has found no solid evidence that opioids are effective in relieving long-term chronic pain.” The Times notes that the CDC “has been underwriting programs to prevent prescription drug overdoses in a number of states,” and calls on Congress to approve the President’s fiscal 2016 budget request for an additional \$54 million to expand the program to all 50 states.

WASHINGTON POST. “A Snowball’s Chance.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, 5.17M) says that Senate Environment and Public Works Chair Jim Inhofe’s speech last week against global warming, in which he brandished a snowball as evidence, was foolish. The Post says that global warming is “a long-term and worldwide trend” and that there is “no reasonable doubt that the world is heating up.”

“Jailed Without Trial.” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (3/1, 5.17M) says Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev “is showing signs of a frantic despotism” as he “seems to be striking out at anyone who opposes him.” The Post notes that Aliyev has used pretrial detention as a tool to silence critics, citing the case of human rights activist Leyla Yunus, who “has been in pretrial detention since July 30 on arbitrary and trumped-up charges of treason and tax evasion.” The Post argues that while Aliyev has said he wants to make Azerbaijan “one of the most developed and competitive countries in the world,” it “certainly won’t become that if he continues to rule like a despot.”

“Fairfax Stonewalling Again.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, 5.17M) editorializes that it has been a month since Fairfax County, VA sheriff’s deputies “went to extract Natasha McKenna from her cell at the Fairfax County jail and, when she resisted, shot her repeatedly with a stun gun.” McKenna, 37, “who was mentally ill, died a few days later without regaining consciousness.” Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova asked to see a video of the incident, but so far, “the request by the county’s top elected official has not been honored, nor has it been denied.” The Post adds that many law enforcement agencies “resort reflexively to stonewalling,” and it argues that Fairfax police “have become notorious for it, having spent 18 months refusing to release information on the 2013 death of John Geer, an unnamed man shot to death by a county police officer in front of fellow officers who saw no reason to pull the trigger.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Squandering A GOP Majority.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) accuses Republicans of walking into a White House trap on DHS spending by engaging Obama in a fight they were almost sure to lose. The Journal calls on GOP to act as a governing party – rather than limiting itself to making political statements with its newly enlarged majority.

“The Trials Of Jihadi John.” An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) takes issue with those who have cited Mohammed Emwazi’s treatment at the hands of MI5 as the reason for his radicalization, arguing that this explanation is an insult to Muslims because it assumes that they can be turned into murderers based on what they perceive as insults to their beliefs.

“Modi’s Mediocre Budget.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorial says that while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered on some reform promises in his new budget that will help India’s economy and gain the support of business, he did not deal with entitlement spending and other impediments to growth. The Journal says that this will hurt Modi and India in the coming years and calls the budget a betrayal of the Indian voters who elected Modi based on his promise of broad change.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Netanyahu Visit Set To Test Mideast Relations](#)
[Thousands March In Moscow For Slain Activist](#)
[In Drug Trial, Parents Weigh Life And Loss](#)
[Is Facebook Friend Or Foe For Telecom Operators?](#)

New York Times:

[Afghan Policewomen Struggle Against Culture](#)
[Kerry Pushing For Agreement In Nuclear Talks](#)
[Justice Department To Fault Ferguson Police, Seeing Racial Bias In Traffic Stops](#)
[As New Testing Is Ushered In, Some Sit It Out](#)

2=Jeter, 3=Ruth, 4=Gehrig. ... In the Bronx, Numbers Are Finite.
Tyco's "Piggy," Out Of The Pen And Living Small

Washington Post:

Clinton, Netanyahu Have A Complicated History
Tribes' Bet On High-Interest Lending Comes With Uneasy Feelings
Boehner In Pinch On DHS Funding
Va GOP's Infighting Stokes Fear Nationally
A Rare Look Inside A Saudi Prison That Showers Terrorists With Perks

Financial Times:

Thousands March In Memory Of Nemtsov
Greece Told To Start Reforms To Gain Cash

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Preempted by NBA basketball.
CBS: Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Coasts; Jihadi John-Emails; Moscow-Memorial March;
Netanyahu-Nuclear Policy Speech; NASDAQ-Comeback.
NBC: Severe Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Moscow-Memorial March; Venezuela-US Relations; ISIL-
Recruitment; Netanyahu-Nuclear Policy Speech; Ebola Nurse-Lawsuit; Minnie Minoso Death.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Winter Weather – 7 minutes, 15 seconds
Netanyahu-Nuclear Policy Speech – 2 minutes, 05 seconds
Moscow-Memorial March – 1 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

CBS: Netanyahu-Nuclear Policy Speech; LA Police-Citizen Shooting; New Orleans-Train Derailment; Dallas
Ebola Nurse-Legal Action; Severe Winter Weather; Box Office.
NPR: Netanyahu-Nuclear Policy Speech; Department Of Homeland Security Funding; North Korea-Missile Test
Fires; Severe Winter Weather; North Carolina-Freezing Rain; Afghanistan Avalanches-Death Tolls; SCOTUS-
Healthcare Subsidies.
FOX: Netanyahu-Nuclear Policy Speech; Congress-Homeland Security.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Meets with members of his Task Force on 21st Century Policing to discuss their recommendations on how to strengthen community policing and strengthen trust among law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Visits Guatemala.

US Senate: No scheduled events.

US House: 10 a.m. REP HOYER PEN AND PAD — House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer will hold a pen and pad briefing. NO CAMERAS WILL BE ALLOWED. Location: H-144.

3 p.m. APPROPRIATIONS — Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Budget Hearing — Consumer Product Safety Commission. Witnesses: Elliot F. Kaye, Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission; Ann Marie Buerkle, Commissioner, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

<http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=394005> Location: 2359 Rayburn.

4 p.m. JUDICIARY — Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law hearing on H.R. 348 the Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development Act of 2015 RAPID Act; H.R. 712 the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2015; and H.R. ____ the Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome Act of 2015 SCRUB Act. <http://judiciary.house.gov/index.cfm/2015/3/hearing-h-r-348-the-rapid-act-h-r-712-the-sunshine-for-regulatory-decrees-and-settlements-act-of-2015-and-h-r-the-scrub-act> Location: 2141 Rayburn.

5 p.m. INTELLIGENCE — Ongoing Intelligence Activities. Closed. Location: HVC-304.

5 p.m. RULES — Business Meeting: H.R. 749 Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015. <http://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=103089> Location: H-313 The Capitol. Other: March 1 – 3. AIPAC 2015 — Annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Confirmed speakers include: U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice; United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R- CA), Democratic House Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC). <http://www.aipac.org/learn/resources/aipac-publications/publication?pubpathPolicyPolitics/Press/AIPAC%20Statements/2015/02/National%20Security%20Advisor> NOTE: Live Broadcast: If you are planning a live feed of any portion of the convention, please contact Lauren Pitruzzello, laurenpitruz@gmail.com, c: 860-985-8351 for additional details. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. NOTE: All media attending Prime Minister Netanyahu's remarks must be in the main plenary hall by 8:30 AM sharp. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. Location: Walter Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW.

March 1 – 3. NATIONAL ANTI-HUNGER POLICY CONFERENCE — Sponsored by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and Feeding America. Featuring anti-hunger and anti-poverty advocates; Federal, state and local government officials; child advocates; representatives of food banks and food rescue organizations; sponsoring organizations and nutrition and anti-obesity groups, for three days of training, networking and Capitol Hill advocacy. 9 a.m. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver remarks. 4 p.m. Under Secretary Kevin Concannon will host a media call to discuss USDA's newest initiative to combat childhood hunger. He will be joined by representatives from three states and two tribal nations that are partnering with USDA for this effort. DIAL: 800-857-9832. PASSCODE: CHILD HUNGER (Given Verbally). Trouble number – 202-720-8560. Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St. NW

CFR – DIRECTOR CLAPPER — 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Livestream from New York. James R. Clapper Jr., Director of National Intelligence, will discuss the state of the intelligence community, including its current challenges and successes.

U.S. CHAMBER – CFPB AGENDA — 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The U.S. Chamber's Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness (CCMC) will host a webinar to discuss the Chamber's 2015 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) legislative agenda. Managing Director Jess Sharp will discuss several themes that the Chamber will be highlighting this year "to ensure that the CFPB creates clear rules that do not limit access to credit in the marketplace for consumers and small businesses, or unnecessarily extend new regulations to small and non-financial businesses."

AEI – U.S. INTERNET POLICY – REP. WALDEN — 2 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. The path ahead for US Internet policy: A conversation with Representative Greg Walden. Speakers: Representative Greg Walden (R-OR), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, shares his reaction to the FCC's net neutrality vote and its implications for the future of broadband Internet, with an introduction by Visiting Scholar with AEI's Center for Internet, Communications, and Technology and president of the technology firm Entropy Economics LLC Bret Swanson. <http://www.aei.org/events/path-ahead-us-internet-policy-conversation-representative-greg-walden/> Location: AEI, Twelfth Floor, 1150 Seventeenth Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "The FCC made a historic ruling by approving net neutrality rules to make sure that everyone has equal access to high-speed Internet. Democrats are in favor of it. Republicans are against it. But they'll probably just let it go and binge watch 'House of Cards' on Netflix anyway."

Jimmy Fallon: "After the FCC issued the net neutrality rules yesterday, President Obama posted a thank-you letter online addressed to the millions of people who helped support the change. He finished with a heartfelt plea, 'Could someone please tell me what net neutrality is?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, during a town hall meeting in New Jersey, Chris Christie joked that he gave up 'The New York Times' for lent. But then his priest told him he had to give up something he'd actually miss."

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 20, 2015

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + [Interior To Issue Federal Fracking Regulations Friday.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell To Deliver Keynote Address At Leahy Center Environmental Summit.](#)
- + [Secretary Jewell Discusses Energy Policy.](#)
- + [Judge To Hear Arguments In King Cove Road Lawsuit.](#)
- + [UC Berkeley Alumni Have History Of Supporting National Parks.](#)
- + [Land Deal Appraised By Tax Assessor Barber Under Investigation.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage: Atlanta Selected For Interior Youth Initiative.](#)
- + [Measures Urged To Avoid Sage Grouse Listing.](#)
- + [Pullman Designation Lauded.](#)

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

National Park Service:

- + [NPS Proposes Establishment Of Endowment.](#)
- + [NPS Faces Youth Challenge.](#)
- + [NPS Kicks Off Selma-to-Montgomery March.](#)
- + [Boston Still Trying To Get JEDD Payments From Cuyahoga Valley National Park Employees.](#)
- + [Bill Revived To Manage Grand Canyon Bison.](#)
- + [Zion National Park Confirms Employee Has Tuberculosis.](#)
- + [Grand Canyon Railroad Tracks To Be Sprayed With Herbicide.](#)
- + [Lost Family Of Tourists Found In Yosemite National Park.](#)
- + [Plans By Polygamist Group Raises Concerns.](#)
- + [NPS Urged To Release The Rim Of The Valley Report .](#)
- + [Protection Of Biscayne National Park Urged.](#)

Bureau of Land Management:

- + [Rep. McCollum Wants Nevada Rancher Bundy Brought To Justice.](#)
- + [BLM Working To Restore Gold Butte.](#)
- + [Bill Introduced To Spur Geothermal Energy.](#)
- + [BLM Sets Public Hearing For Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan.](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + [GOP Lawmakers Says Protecting Coal Plants Will Help Manatees.](#)
- + [Alaska To Receive More Than \\$2 Million In Grants For Wildlife.](#)
- + [Scientists Hunting For The Next Ebola Outbreak.](#)
- + [Experts Express Doubts About Bushmeat Guide.](#)

US Geological Survey:

- + [USGS Finds Drop In Seabird Population In North Pacific Waters.](#)
- + [USGS To Release New Earthquake Hazard Maps In Oklahoma.](#)

- + [Scientists Studying Deadliest US Landslide.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + [Meeting Held On SunZia Project.](#)

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Congressmen Raise Questions Stream Buffer Zone Rule.](#)
- + [Lawsuit Targets Approval Of Wishbone Hill Coal Mine Permits.](#)
- + [BLM Announces Results Of Elko Oil, Gas Lease Sale.](#)
- + [Sen. Wyden Asks BLM To Extend Comment Period For Boardman-to-Hemingway Power Line.](#)
- + [McConnell Urges States To Oppose Obama's "War On Coal."](#)
- + [US Appellate Court Rules Doctor Lacks Standing In Fracking Disclosure Case.](#)

Offshore Energy Development:

- + [BOEM Expects To Issue Key Decision On Chukchi Sea By End Of March.](#)
- + [BP Clashes With States, Feds Over Gulf Of Mexico Health.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Gulf Of Mexico Lease Sale.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Meetings On Offshore Drilling.](#)
- + [Public Urged To Comment On Offshore Drilling.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Former BOR Commissioner Calls For Agency's Abolishment.](#)
- + [Gov. Brown Announces \\$1 Billion Emergency Drought Plan.](#)
- + [Project For Lake Cle Elum Sockeye Awaits Funding.](#)
- + [Support For Bay Delta Conservation Plan Urged.](#)

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + [BIA Proposes New Regulations To Improve Child Welfare Practices.](#)
- + [Bill Would Amend Carcieri Ruling.](#)
- + [Standing Rock Tribe Considers Land Buy Back.](#)
- + [New Mexico House Approves Gambling Compact As Deadline Draws Near.](#)
- + [Tribe Withdraws From Proposed Casino In Southeast Kansas.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Rep. Takai Seeks \\$185M Sought For Migrants.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [White House Dismisses Netanyahu's Attempts To Backtrack On Palestinian Statehood.](#)
- + [House, Senate Budget Committees Pass GOP Spending Plan.](#)
- + [Obama Orders Cuts In Federal Greenhouse Emissions.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)

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 TO ISSUE FEDERAL FRACKING REGULATIONS FRIDAY. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20,

Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the Obama Administration will issue new regulations aimed at creating a national standard for hydraulic fracturing on Friday. According to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the rules will set standards for the construction of wells and wastewater disposal, and require companies to disclose the chemicals they use. A government proposal from May 2013 estimated that the rules will cost the oil and gas industry between \$12 and \$20 million a year. In anticipation of the new regulations, Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, introduced legislation on Thursday to prohibit federal regulation of fracking and instead give regulatory responsibility to states. According to the article, the bill has support from all Senate Republicans, but it not expected to become law.

[Politico](#) (3/19, 669K) reports the regulations will "offer oil and gas supporters new room to accuse President Barack Obama of seeking to throttle fossil-fuel production, despite his repeated boasts about the nation's booming energy supplies." The new regulations, Politico says, also "fall short of environmentalists' biggest demands for oversight of fracking operations — let alone some groups' calls for an all-out ban."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, Dlouhy, 2.28M), the [FuelFix](#) (3/19, 7K), the [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/20, 674K), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/19, 2.21M) also provide coverage of this story.

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT LEAHY CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT. The [AP](#) (3/20, 299K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "going to be in Vermont where she will speak at an environmental summit on the Lake Champlain waterfront in Burlington." She is "scheduled to give the keynote address Friday at the Leahy Center Environmental Summit."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/20, 51K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/20, 81K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, 2.28M), and the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, 644K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES ENERGY POLICY. On the [Diane Rehm Show](#) (3/19), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked "about the Obama administration's energy priorities and why she wants tougher pollution rules for federal land, incentives for wind and solar and a focus on cutting carbon pollution."

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN KING COVE ROAD LAWSUIT. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/20, 14K) reports that Alaska's "lawsuit to force Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to rethink her denial of a road out of King Cove is approaching its crescendo." According to the article, "a motion for summary judgment and opposition to the state's motion was filed March 9 by the Interior Department in the Alaska U.S. District Court on behalf of Jewell."

UC BERKELEY ALUMNI HAVE HISTORY OF SUPPORTING NATIONAL PARKS. The [California Magazine](#) (3/19) reports that UC Berkeley alumni have had "a major influence on both launching and maintaining the National Park system," according to Steven Beissinger, professor of wildlife ecology at Cal. The article notes that Berkeley alums "convened a conference at UC Berkeley on March 15, 1915, attended by 75 scientists, conservationists, politicians, park administrators and resource managers." Now, "the university will commemorate this month's centennial of the 1915 Berkeley conference on national parks with two events." The article notes that "the spring 2015 Horace M. Albright Lecture in Conservation, America's Two Best Ideas – Public Education and Public Lands, will be held on March 26, featuring a conversation with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, University of California President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley, and UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks."

LAND DEAL APPRAISED BY TAX ASSESSOR BARBER UNDER INVESTIGATION. The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (3/19, 222K) reports that "federal authorities have been looking into Madison County Tax Assessor Gerald Barber and his role in a Louisiana land deal that scored almost \$3 million in profits for private citizens and a conservation group." According to the article, "the lynchpin for the deal may have been an apparent inflated appraisal done by Barber's firm, Barber & Mann Inc., that the U.S. inspector general called 'noncompliant' and unreasonably priced in an audit." The article notes that "the appraisal of a tract of Louisiana swampland, which swiftly changed hands from two private owners to an environmental group to the government over the course of a few months in early 2011, is described as not complying with federal appraisal guidelines, misleading parish and government officials, and appearing 'to contain an unreasonable price per acre.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ATLANTA SELECTED FOR INTERIOR YOUTH INITIATIVE. Additional coverage that Atlanta is "among first 11 cities chosen for the Interior Department's new youth initiative" was provided by the [Atlanta Daily World](#) (3/19, 1K) and the [South Dade \(FL\) News Leader](#) (3/20).

MEASURES URGED TO AVOID SAGE GROUSE LISTING. In an editorial, the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#)

(3/20, 172K) notes that “the Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management and its U.S. Department of Agriculture counterpart, the U.S. Forest Service, manage most of the 67 million acres of sage grouse habitat,” and “these two agencies are preparing dozens of regional plans to protect the bird, supplemented by state-led efforts.” Averting a listing “depends on the strength of federal and state habitat conservation plans.” according to the editorial, “depending on the region, the sage grouse needs buffers around nesting sites, effective fire control strategies, limits on motorized vehicles during nesting and fire seasons, corridors to maintain or create contact among bird populations, siting rules for energy projects and campaigns to stop the spread of invasive species.”

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/20, 94K) welcomes measures to protect the sage grouse. It notes that FWS “officials from five soil and water conservation districts, including those in Crook and Deschutes counties, signed what are known as Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances on Wednesday in Juntura.” Also, “in Wyoming, Gov. Matt Mead and Dan Ashe, head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have agreed to open the country’s first conservation bank for sage grouse.”

Additional Coverage: Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Bank System Announced. Additional coverage of the conservation bank for sage grouse established in Wyoming was provided by the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20), the [North American Windpower](#) (3/20, 43K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/20, 90K), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/19, 506), the [Casper \(WY\) Journal](#) (3/20, 80K), and [Eagle Ford Texas](#) (3/20).

PULLMAN DESIGNATION LAUDED. For the “Congress Blog” of [The Hill](#) (3/20, Hunter, Sr., 224K), Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr. celebrates President Obama’s “recent protection of the historic Pullman neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago as a National Monument.” He says that “this is an appropriate commemoration of a site significant to our history and heritage, and demonstrates the president’s commitment to ensuring all of our children can find their history in our parks and monuments.” According to Hunter, “Pullman’s designation as a National Monument demonstrates President Obama’s commitment to protect places that tell the stories of all Americans.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “lawmakers appear to be leaving the drafting of legislation to establish a National Park Service endowment up to the agency officials, according to interviews with House and Senate natural resources leaders yesterday.” House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said that “he hadn’t yet met personally” with NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis “since taking over the committee, which has jurisdiction over parks legislation, at the start of this year,” and noted that “it was probably more my fault than his.” The article notes that “in a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing earlier this week, Jarvis revealed that his nearly 100-year-old agency is planning to propose the establishment of an endowment that could raise money and help address some lingering problems as NPS enters its second century.”

NPS FACES YOUTH CHALLENGE. [CNN](#) (3/19, Bergeron, Redlitz, 2.05M) reports that “America’s national parks attracted a record-setting 292.8 million visits, but the typical visitor to the country’s biggest parks is edging closer to retirement age.” Also, “according to the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), half of the employees in park service leadership positions are scheduled to retire by 2016, which could lead to even more understaffing for the national parks.”

Also reporting on the story is [KDVR-TV Denver \(CO\) Denver](#) (3/19, 180K).

NPS KICKS OFF SELMA-TO-MONTGOMERY MARCH. The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (3/19, 13K) reports that the NPS will “kick off its Selma-to-Montgomery march this evening at the Lowndes Interpretive Center at 8 p.m. with a talk from Stan Austin, the regional director of National Park Services and James Walker, the mayor of White Hall.” The article note that “roughly 300 people coming from 26 different states went through the application process to take part in the march.”

BOSTON STILL TRYING TO GET JEDD PAYMENTS FROM CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK EMPLOYEES. The [West Side \(OH\) Leader](#) (3/20, 33K) reports that “the Boston Township Board of Trustees discussed the income tax collection from Cuyahoga Valley National Park employees as part of the Boston-Peninsula Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) at the March 11 meeting.”

BILL REVIVED TO MANAGE GRAND CANYON BISON. The AP (3/20, Fonseca, 2.28M) reports that Sen. John McCain and “some of his colleagues in the Arizona delegation have revived a proposal to reduce the number of bison at the Grand Canyon and let authorized hunters keep the meat from the animals they kill.” The bill “comes as the Grand Canyon is developing a management plan for the bison that roam the northern reaches of Arizona, trampling vegetation, grazing in pristine meadows and polluting water resources.” If passed, “the legislation would require a management plan to be published within 180 days.”

ZION NATIONAL PARK CONFIRMS EMPLOYEE HAS TUBERCULOSIS. The AP (3/20, 2.28M) reports that “Zion National Park officials are telling the public not to worry after an employee there was diagnosed with tuberculosis.” In a statement, the park said “the employee worked in concessions and was diagnosed with the respiratory disease last week.” Spokesman David Eaker said “there was little, if any, risk to the public.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 405K) and the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (3/20, 398K).

GRAND CANYON RAILROAD TRACKS TO BE SPRAYED WITH HERBICIDE. The AP (3/20, 2.28M) reports that “Grand Canyon rail officials say railroad tracks inside the park will be sprayed later this month to prevent the growth of invasive plant life.” The Grand Canyon Railway says it is working with the NPS “to apply herbicide March 25-26 along several tracks.” According to park officials, “the herbicide will inhibit growth of vegetation, lowering the risk of train wheels igniting a fire.”

LOST FAMILY OF TOURISTS FOUND IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The AP (3/20, 547K) reports that “authorities say deputies found a family of four that spent nearly 24 hours lost in a forested area of Yosemite National Park thanks to their GPS and texted photographs of their location.” According to the Mariposa County Sheriff’s Department, “deputies and a U.S. park ranger tracked the family Wednesday afternoon to a dirt road in an area known as Chowchilla Mountain thanks to pings from their GPS and pictures of their location the family sent by text message.”

PLANS BY POLYGAMIST GROUP RAISES CONCERNS. The AP (3/19, Press, 5.17M) reports that “the brother of an imprisoned leader of a polygamous sect wants to double the amount of water available to the group’s compound in South Dakota, prompting concern by neighbors and law enforcement about a possible influx of members being displaced from an enclave on the Utah-Arizona border.” Seth Jeffs, “who originally sought to triple the amount of water the South Dakota ranch could draw, recently told the state he was scaling back his request to relieve the ‘fears and concerns’ of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.” William Hansen, chief of the Water Rights Branch of the NPS, said “its main concern is the effect an additional well, without stricter limitations on usage, could have on Wind Cave National Park, since the FLDS draws from the same aquifer that has been forming the cave for millennia.”

NPS URGED TO RELEASE THE RIM OF THE VALLEY REPORT . The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (3/19, 317K) editorializes that Rep. Adam Schiff is “certainly not exaggerating when he terms ‘bureaucratic neglect’ the failure of the National Park Service to release a report, already delayed three times, on his proposal to create a Rim of the Valley National Recreation Area on wildlands stretching from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles National Forest above Pasadena.” The paper also has “concerns about combining its management with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, big enough already, and with including El Pueblo de Los Angeles, an urban area.”

The piece also appears at the [Long Beach \(CA\) Press-Telegram](#) (3/19, 163K).

PROTECTION OF BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK URGED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, Pierno, 281K), Theresa Pierno, Chief Operating Officer of the National Parks Conservation Association, writes that in recognition of World Water Day on March 22, Point Reyes National Seashore, “our first marine wilderness on the west coast at Drakes Estero, comes to mind along with opportunities that exist to protect invaluable national park resources across the country like Biscayne National Park along on the opposite coast in South Florida.” She says that “with great progress made at Point Reyes National Seashore with the recent marine wilderness designation, let’s do all we can now to protect Biscayne National Park by creating a marine reserve to protect its magnificent coral reefs, replenish native fish to the park, and bring Biscayne back to its historic status as a world class national park.”

Bureau of Land Management:

REP. MCCOLLUM WANTS NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his armed supporters who protested the Bureau of Land Management's roundup of Bundy's cattle last April broke the law and should be brought to justice, a Minnesota congresswoman said this morning." Rep. Betty McCollum "pressed BLM Director Neil Komze on what the government has done to deter illegal grazing on public lands and to protect agency employees who have been threatened by anti-government violence." But the questioning "put Komze in a bind, as Interior Department officials for several months have been deferring to the FBI and Justice Department to handle the government's response to the Bundy standoff."

BLM WORKING TO RESTORE GOLD BUTTE. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/19, 46K) reports that "JJ Smith, restoration project manager at the Bureau of Land Management, informed an audience of the ecology of the Gold Butte area and its issues of endangered species and plants at the Friends of Gold Butte Education Series Wednesday at the Community Theatre." Smith said "he and his restoration crew do quite a few restoration projects in desert environments." He added, "They're very difficult and it takes a lot of time and money. The chances of success are sometimes very low. Mainly because there's not much water, that makes restoration here more difficult than anywhere else I've worked. And because we have pre-major challenges like red brome grass."

BILL INTRODUCED TO SPUR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. [KTVZ-TV Bend, OR](#) (3/20, 4K) reports that Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley "introduced legislation Thursday to encourage geothermal energy production on public lands." The Geothermal Production Expansion Act "prevents speculative bidders from driving up the price of leases for developers seeking to use the land for geothermal projects." The legislation "streamlines the federal geothermal leasing program by allowing for the non-competitive leasing of a limited amount of federal land at fair market value to spur the expansion of geothermal energy on already identified 'hot spots.'"

BLM SETS PUBLIC HEARING FOR CARSON CITY DISTRICT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/19, 168K) reports that "after open houses were conducted around the district in January, the Bureau of Land Management Carson City District announced an upcoming public hearing on the Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan concerning land issues." The hearing will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 19 at the Churchill County Commission Chambers, 155 N. Taylor St. in Fallon.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GOP LAWMAKERS SAYS PROTECTING COAL PLANTS WILL HELP MANATEES. [McClatchy](#) (3/20, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that the fact that "some two-thirds of Florida's endangered manatees rely on discharge waters from power plants for winter warmth" is being used by congressional Republicans "to challenge the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's agenda to fight climate change, a plan to slash carbon emissions that could force large-scale closures of coal plants." The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources confronted FWS Director Dan Ashe "on the issue at a budget hearing Thursday." Rep. Rob Bishop said the FWS is "required to formally consult on any plan that could pose problems for an endangered species." According to the article, "after Ashe acknowledged under questioning that the Fish and Wildlife Service did not consult with the EPA on the power plant rules, Bishop displayed in the committee room a photo of manatees in the Big Bend discharge canal, and he noted it is 'considered a primary warm-water site for the manatees.'"

Coverage by McClatchy was also picked up by the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, 694K).

ALASKA TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR WILDLIFE. The [Alaska Native News](#) (3/20, 245) reports that the FWS "recently announced that more than \$2.0 million in new funding will be available to the State of Alaska through the State Wildlife Grant program in fiscal year 2015." The grants "provide funds for conservation work across the state, including more than \$680,000 for work to reintroduce the endangered wood bison to Alaska after having been wiped out for more than a century."

SCIENTISTS HUNTING FOR THE NEXT EBOLA OUTBREAK. The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, A1, Sieff, 5.17M) reports in a front-page article that a team of US-funded researchers is "hunting deep in a remote rain forest" in Congo, looking for an answer about where the Ebola virus hides between human epidemics. The paper notes that the answer appears to lie in the vast "African jungle where gorillas, bats and other animals suspected of spreading the virus share a shrinking ecosystem." The article notes that if "scientists can pinpoint the carriers, and how Ebola is transmitted between them, future epidemics will be easier to anticipate, or even prevent."

EXPERTS EXPRESS DOUBTS ABOUT BUSHMEAT GUIDE. The [AllAfrica](#) (3/20, 7K) reports that “conservation biologists studying the effects of bushmeat hunting in Africa have criticised a UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report for making unrealistic claims about the chances of protecting wildlife from commercial hunters.” The Bushmeat sourcebook, launched to mark World Wildlife Day on 3 March, “does little to create the “enlightened self-interest” among policymakers and the game industry that is vital to maintain a viable population of bushmeat species, including bats, monkeys and wild pigs,” according to experts. Responding to the online guide, Richard Ruggiero, head of international conservation at the FWS, says “he doubts it will lead to the tougher regulation needed to prevent commercial operations from taking over from subsistence hunting and wiping out the most valuable food sources.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS FINDS DROP IN SEABIRD POPULATION IN NORTH PACIFIC WATERS. The AP (3/20, Joling, 2.28M) reports that “the number of seabirds, including gulls, puffins and auklets, has dropped significantly in the Gulf of Alaska and northeast Bering Sea, a possible consequence of warmer waters, according to a preliminary federal analysis of nearly 40 years of surveys.” UGS experts “found the seabird population density declined 2 percent annually from 1975 to 2012 in the northeast North Pacific, said John Piatt, research wildlife biologist at the USGS Alaska Science Center.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (3/19, Press, 5.17M), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 146K), and the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (3/19, 18K).

USGS TO RELEASE NEW EARTHQUAKE HAZARD MAPS IN OKLAHOMA. The AP (3/20, 81K) reports that the USGS is “expected to release a new hazard map for earthquakes in Oklahoma.” According to the article, “data collection has continued with the help of the Oklahoma Geological Survey after the state recorded more earthquakes of a magnitude of 3.0 and higher last year than California.” Dan McNamara, USGS research geophysicist and lead author of the paper, said in a news release, “By identifying the faults, we are providing some guidance about where major earthquakes can happen.”

SCIENTISTS STUDYING DEADLIEST US LANDSLIDE. The AP (3/20, 685K) reports that “the deadliest landslide in U.S. history,” is “significantly enhancing scientists’ understanding,” according to Jonathan Godt, coordinator for the USGS’ landslide hazard program. He said, “The key research goal is to identify the basic reasons of why the landslide traveled so far and so fast.” Godt said the USGS “hopes that over the next eight years it will be able to chart geologic hazards across the country using advanced technology, but the plan is only partially funded.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

MEETING HELD ON SUNZIA PROJECT. The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (3/19, 10K) reports that many questions surround the SunZia Transmission Line, and “more than 150 people attended a meeting March 11 with State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn, SunZia representatives, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials, the New Mexico Renewable Transmission Authority (RETA) and more.” For supporters, “it’s a way to create jobs, increase property tax revenue on the state trust lands and other designated plots, as well as increase renewable energy.” However, “for the opposition, it’s a threat to national security, Socorro County infrastructure, possible species’ migratory patterns, health and wellness and private land entitlement.”

Onshore Energy Development:

CONGRESSMEN RAISE QUESTIONS STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE. The [Harlan \(KY\) Daily Enterprise](#) (3/20, 19K) reports that Rep. Harold “Hal” Rogers “continued questions on the Obama Administration’s anti-coal policies and job-killing regulations this week on Capitol Hill.” In a joint-letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Rogers and Rep. Evan Jenkins “expressed concerns about the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s (OSM) efforts to develop a sweeping and unnecessary revised stream buffer zone rule.” The letter cites “mismanagement within the agency and a lack of transparency with coal producing states during the stream buffer zone rulemaking process.”

The piece also appears at the [Middlesboro \(KY\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 433).

LAWSUIT TARGETS APPROVAL OF WISHBONE HILL COAL MINE PERMITS. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 146K) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups this week sued the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, saying the agency erroneously supported invalid state permits for the Wishbone Hill coal mine near Sutton”. According to the article, “the Alaska Department of Natural Resources’ mining division last October approved Usibelli’s request for five-year permit renewals.” However, “the groups argue the permits actually expired in 1996 and the Office of Surface Mining violated federal laws by not forcing the state to require a new permit process.”

BLM ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF ELKO OIL, GAS LEASE SALE. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/19, 168K) reports that the BLM “generated \$55,383 during its quarterly oil and gas competitive lease sale on March 10 in Reno, selling 13 parcels comprising about 15,244 acres in Elko and Eureka counties.” The bureau “offered 24 parcels totaling 25,882.47 acres.”

SEN. WYDEN ASKS BLM TO EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD FOR BOARDMAN-TO-HEMINGWAY POWER LINE. The [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (3/20, 8K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden has “asked the BLM to extend the comment period, which is scheduled to end today, for the proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway power line.” Wyden, “who had town hall meetings in several Eastern Oregon locations recently, including Baker City, wants the BLM to extend the comment period for 60 days.”

MCCONNELL URGES STATES TO OPPOSE OBAMA’S “WAR ON COAL.” The [New York Times](#) (3/19, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell has begun “an aggressive campaign to block President Obama’s climate change agenda in statehouses and courtrooms across the country, arenas far beyond Mr. McConnell’s official reach and authority.” His campaign is aimed at stopping a set of EPA regulations requiring states to reduce carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, but since he is “limited in how he can use his role in the Senate to block regulations, he has taken the unusual step of reaching out to governors.”

US APPELLATE COURT RULES DOCTOR LACKS STANDING IN FRACKING DISCLOSURE CASE. [Reuters](#) (3/20, Rascoe) reports that an appellate court dismissed a case that challenges a Pennsylvania law limiting the disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing by healthcare professionals. The court ruling is characterized as a victory for oil and gas companies.

The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (3/20, 181K) reports that the dismissed lawsuit argued that a Pennsylvania doctor “had an ethical obligation to share information regarding fracking fluid ingredients with his patients, other medical professionals and the general public ‘to advance scientific knowledge.’” The appellate court concurred with a lower court’s ruling that Dr. Alfonso Rodriguez lacked legal standing to bring the lawsuit, noting that “federal law requires a plaintiff show he or she suffered an actual injury.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM EXPECTS TO ISSUE KEY DECISION ON CHUKCHI SEA BY END OF MARCH. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/20, 14K) reports the BOEM “expects to issue a final decision by March 31 on a revised environmental impact statement of the Chukchi Sea 2008 Outer Continental Shelf lease sale that has been contested in court by environmental groups, the director of the agency said March 13.” BOEM Director Abigail Hopper also said that “Shell will likely not have to submit a revised oil spill containment and cleanup plan developed in 2012 and approved by the BOEM.”

BP CLASHES WITH STATES, FEDS OVER GULF OF MEXICO HEALTH. The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/20, 315K) reports that “sniping between BP and the governments affected by the oil giant’s Gulf of Mexico 2010 oil spill is reaching a fever pitch as the five-year anniversary of the largest spill in U.S. history approaches.” The article notes that “the latest episode in the fallout from the April 2010 incident revolves around a report BP released this week that said the data that has been collected ‘do not indicate a significant long-term impact to the population of any Gulf species.’” But “trustees for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, a body established by a 1990 law to investigate the damage to natural resources from oil spills, slammed the report as being premature and disingenuous.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE. Additional coverage of the latest central US Gulf of Mexico lease sale was provided by [Politico](#) (3/19, 669K), the [Houston Business Journal](#) (3/20, Blum,

Subscription Publication, 65K), the [Energy Business Review](#) (3/20), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20), and [E&P Magazine](#) (3/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MEETINGS ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. Additional coverage of the meetings being held on offshore drilling was provided by the [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (3/20), the [Coastal \(GA\) Courier](#) (3/20, 16K), the [Vineland \(NJ\) Daily Journal](#) (3/19, 58K), and the [New Jersey Local News](#) (3/19, Spoto, 772K).

PUBLIC URGED TO COMMENT ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. In an editorial, the [Hilton Head \(SC\) Island Packet](#) (3/19, 81K) notes that “the Town of Hilton Head Island this week joined the parade of coastal South Carolina governments opposing offshore drilling for gas and oil, and the window for the public to take a stand is about to close.” The paper urges “everyone to ask questions, keep an open mind, form an opinion and take a stand.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

FORMER BOR COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR AGENCY’S ABOLISHMENT. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/20, 74K) reports that “last month, Clinton-era Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Daniel Beard published a book calling for the abolishment of his own former agency.” The article notes that “dam removal and the obliteration of a longstanding federal agency are only two of Beard’s many suggestions for dealing with persistent drought.” In an interview, Beard discussed “his book and how water policy should evolve in anticipation of climate change.”

GOV. BROWN ANNOUNCES \$1 BILLION EMERGENCY DROUGHT PLAN. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (3/19, 113K) reports that “farm groups offered tepid praise for a \$1 billion drought relief package Gov. Jerry Brown and top California lawmakers unveiled March 19 to speed up delivery of voter-approved bond money for such projects as flood control and securing safe drinking water.” The article notes that “the plan details conservation, water recycling, expanded storage and other efforts to secure California’s water future.”

PROJECT FOR LAKE CLE ELUM SOCKEYE AWAITS FUNDING. The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (3/19, 86K) reports that to improve passage for young sockeye salmon in Lake Cle Elum, the BOR “designed a first-of-its-kind \$100 million system to let fish swim downstream safely despite variations in the lake levels.” However, “the project, included in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan for water management, awaits congressional authorization and funding.”

SUPPORT FOR BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN URGED. In an op-ed for the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (3/19, 27K), Ron Miller, the executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, writes that California’s “system of aging levees, aqueducts and pipes — that supplies water to 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland — is outdated and at risk of collapse in the event of a major earthquake or flood.” Miller argues that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan would “address the most severe vulnerabilities of California’s water delivery system.” He claims that “the BDCP will improve the safety of our water system by fixing aging and outdated infrastructure, relying on the most innovative technologies and engineering practices.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS TO IMPROVE CHILD WELFARE PRACTICES. The [Hill](#) (3/20, Devaney, 224K) reports that the BIA is “proposing new regulations to improve child welfare practices for Indian children.” The proposed regulations would “advise state courts on how to handle Indian child custody proceedings, such as providing notice to the parents involved, terminating parental rights and adoptions.” The rules would also “address how the courts should respond to requests to transfer the cases to tribal courts and placement preferences.”

BILL WOULD AMEND CARCIERI RULING. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/19, 49K) reports that “on March 12, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced S. 732, ‘A bill to amend the [Indian Reorganization] Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.’” The legislation “aims to repair the US Supreme Court’s ruling in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, an anti-Indian sovereignty decision that curbed the Interior Secretary’s authority to take land into trust for tribes recognized after 1934 when the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) was passed.” According to the article, “Tester’s bill ‘cleanly’ fixes the *Carcieri* ruling by striking ‘any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction’ and inserting ‘any federally recognized Indian tribe’ – without conditions or exceptions.”

STANDING ROCK TRIBE CONSIDERS LAND BUY BACK. The [Aberdeen \(SD\) News](#) (3/20, 47K) reports that “because the landowner pool on American Indian reservations has grown diluted through the years, tribes are attempting to buy back swaths of property in an effort to enhance development opportunities.” Michelle LeBeau of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who is a representative of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, “stopped in Aberdeen and other towns around the state on Tuesday to answer questions about the effort.” During a meeting Tuesday, LeBeau said, “There are a lot of people who don’t realize they have land. There are also people who are non-enrolled members who own land. What we’re trying to do is to combat fractionation, which is a big issue in tribal communities.”

NEW MEXICO HOUSE APPROVES GAMBLING COMPACT AS DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR. The AP (3/20) reports that “the New Mexico House of Representatives has approved a gambling compact negotiated by American Indian tribes and Gov. Susana Martinez’s office.” The compact still needs the approval of the Interior Department.

Also reporting on the story is the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/20, 238K).

TRIBE WITHDRAWS FROM PROPOSED CASINO IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS. The AP (3/20, 299K) reports that “an American Indian tribe based in Oklahoma is pulling out of a partnership seeking to build a casino in southeast Kansas because of hostility from Gov. Sam Brownback’s administration, the tribe’s chairman said.” John Berrey, chairman of the Quapaw Tribe, said Wednesday that “the tribe will not be partners with developer Phil Ruffin in a proposed Emerald City Casino & Resort north of Pittsburg.” Berrey said “the withdrawal is in response to a federal lawsuit filed by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt seeking to stop the tribe from expanding its Downstream Casino facility in Oklahoma onto land the tribe owns in Kansas.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

REP. TAKAI SEEKS \$185M SOUGHT FOR MIGRANTS. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 61K) reports that Rep. Mark Takai is “leading new efforts in Congress to increase annual funding for regional migrant costs from \$30 million to \$185 million.” Takai’s legislation states, “Insufficient sums have been appropriated to cover the costs incurred by Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the State of Hawaii, resulting from increased demands placed on health, educational, and other social services by individuals from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE DISMISSES NETANYAHU’S ATTEMPTS TO BACKTRACK ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s comments yesterday on Palestinian statehood are being cast by media outlets as backtracking on statements he made ahead of Tuesday’s election. At the same time, reports universally say the White House dismissed the Israeli leader’s comments as it suggested that the US may no longer block a UN vote on Palestinian statehood. The developments were reported on all three network newscasts last night, which devoted a total of just over five-and-a-half minutes to the story, and are also generating front-page headlines this morning.

For example, ABC [World News](#) (3/19, story 8, 0:25, Robach, 5.84M) said Netanyahu seemed to backtrack on his “last-minute campaign promise,” while [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/19, lead story, 3:20, Holt, 7.86M) reports that just “days after his stunning 11th hour campaign declaration that there would not be a Palestinian state on his watch...Netanyahu did an equally stunning turn-about” during an interview with Andrea Mitchell. Netanyahu said in the interview, “I haven’t changed my policy. I don’t want a one-state solution. I want a sustainable peaceful two-state solution. But for that, circumstances have to change.” Mitchell said “the White House wasn’t buying his explanation.”

White House officials, says the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Lauter, 3.49M), “made it clear that the president is not forgetting Netanyahu’s” remarks earlier this week. “We take him at his word,” press secretary Josh Earnest said. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/19, story 4, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) similarly said that despite Netanyahu’s assurance that his comment was purely “campaign rhetoric,” the Administration, “frustrated by Netanyahu’s decision to play politics with the peace process, remained wary.” The President called Netanyahu to congratulate him on his election victory, but he told Netanyahu “nothing he said today changed [his] mind about reassessing how to achieve a two-state solution.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, A1, Rudoren, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says Netanyahu's "new assertions appeared to do nothing to assuage an infuriated Obama administration." According to "a White House official who spoke without authorization to detail the private conversation," Obama told Netanyahu "directly that the United States would have to 're-assess our options' after the prime minister's 'new positions and comments' on the two-state solution." The Times notes that the "formal White House account of the call made no mention of the criticism." [Reuters](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Chiacu) also reports the comments by the unnamed White House official.

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/19, 5:02 p.m. ET, 554K), Jim Acosta added, "Simply put, the White House is not buying what...Netanyahu is selling today." In fact, White House officials "are suggesting they may allow votes at the United Nations in favor of a Palestinian state. As you know, that is a measure the US has blocked before." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/19, 6:00 p.m. ET, 1.53M) also noted the "speculation the US might try to pressure Israel into a peace deal with the Palestinians by reevaluating its support for the Jewish state at the United Nations." Eamest is quoted as saying, "Because of his indication he's prepared to withdrawal from previous commitments to a two-state solution that does and has prompted us to reevaluate our approach to that matter."

Although Netanyahu, the [AP](#) (3/20, Deitch) reports, "backtracked," Eamest "reiterated the White House view that Netanyahu's pre-election comments...would mean the US would have to reconsider its approach to Israel," but he "did not go into specifics." [USA Today](#) (3/20, Chabin, 4.95M), however, quotes Eamest as saying, "I'm not suggesting that any policy decision has been made at this point." The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, A1, Murphy, 5.17M) too says Netanyahu "backtracked," but the "head-spinning pivot did not convince White House officials, who suggested Thursday that Netanyahu's maneuvers could prompt a shift in US policy toward Israel, particularly in the United Nations." In a "sign of the Obama administration's extreme frustration," Eamest "denounced Netanyahu's actions as 'cynical, divisive election-day tactics' that are unworthy of the values" that the two nations share.

[McClatchy](#) (3/20, Greenberg, Subscription Publication, 17K) says yesterday marked "the second day in a row in which Eamest used intentionally undiplomatic wording to describe Netanyahu's actions."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, A1, Casey, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that Administration officials said yesterday that Netanyahu's comments have made it difficult for the White House to accept Netanyahu's attempt to clarify his remarks. "If he had consistently stated that he remained in favor of a two-state solution, we'd be having a different conversation," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Chiacu, 281K), under the banner "White House Not Buying It," similarly reports on yesterday's events, as does [Politico](#) (3/19, Wheaton, 669K), [AFP](#) (3/20, Biddle, Beatty, Ward), and [The Hill](#) (3/19, Fabian, 224K), among other outlets.

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) column that any moves by the Administration at the UN "would open a wide and potentially destabilizing breach between the two allies, and the administration's consideration of them now is probably partly tactical."

Charles Krauthammer, meanwhile, writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) column that "of all the idiocies uttered in reaction to...Netanyahu's stunning election victory, none is more ubiquitous than the idea that peace prospects are now dead because Netanyahu has declared that there will be no Palestinian state while he is Israel's prime minister." While Krauthammer says he "understand[s] the crushing disappointment of the Obama administration...blaming Netanyahu for banishing peace, however, is mindless."

Fareed Zakaria writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) column that Israel's great vulnerability is its Arab population, not Iran, and says rejecting a two-state solution will not serve its best interests in the long run.

Erekat: Netanyahu Never Really Believed In Two-State Solution. Calling into [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/19, 7:09 p.m. ET, 554K), Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said, "As Netanyahu is concerned – I don't think he was ever a two-stater. I think it was one of the rare honest moments when he...was saying the truth. This man since he came to office in 1996 and 2009 to now he did nothing but undermine a two-state solution. I take this very, very seriously. I think his election is very, very dangerous. ... And he needs to be held accountable."

Israeli Arabs Form New Alliance In Knesset. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Rudoren, Hadid, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the leaders of Israel's "newly united, newly empowered Arab political faction," who won 13 seats in Tuesday's election, want "seats on the interior, finance, education, legal, employment and social-affairs committees" in the Knesset, and they "hope to gain influence over the curriculum in Arab-sector

schools and increase the budgets for Arab towns.”

McDonough To Address J Street Conference. [Politico](#) (3/20, Lerner, 669K) reports White House chief of staff Denis McDonough will deliver the keynote address at J Street’s national conference on Monday. [The Hill](#) (3/19, Hensch, 224K) also reported on McDonough’s speech.

Boehner To Visit Israel. [Ha’aretz](#) (3/20, Ravid, 235K) reports Speaker Boehner is expected to visit Israel “in about a week.” According to the newspaper, the trip was arranged before this week’s election in Israel, but it “is likely to be a ‘victory celebration’” for Netanyahu and Boehner.

NYTimes A1 Analysis: Netanyahu’s Reelection “Complicates Life” For Clinton. [The New York Times](#) (3/20, A1, Horowitz, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on its front page that while Netanyahu’s reelection “has reverberated through American politics...mostly it has complicated the life” of Hillary Clinton as she “moves closer to making her campaign for president official.” Clinton, says the Times, “now faces a deepening polarization among Jewish Democrats” over Netanyahu and how the US “should deal with his government.”

HOUSE, SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEES PASS GOP SPENDING PLAN. The House Budget Committee advanced the GOP 2016 budget on a party-line vote early Thursday morning, but internal sparring among Republicans over defense spending has complicated the situation. The Senate Budget Committee similarly passed its spending plan, with full Senate consideration to start next week.

The [AP](#) (3/20, Espo, Taylor) reports that on Thursday, Congressional Republicans “advanced balanced-budget plans bristling with cuts in Medicaid and other benefit programs,” looking to “make good” on campaign promises to balance the budget. However, “last-minute maneuvering” to determine defense spending levels “consumed GOP lawmakers in both the House Budget Committee and the counterpart Senate panel.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the House Budget Committee “voted out an otherwise austere spending plan, promising to add \$2 billion in additional ‘emergency’ war funding to a budget that already raised combat funds by \$38 billion.” Those funds “will be added Monday as the full House prepares to debate the tax-and-spending blueprint.” Similarly, the Senate Budget Committee added \$38 billion in military spending for combat operations after a “revolt by defense advocates.”

Boehner Says House To Consider Further Defense Increases Next Week. [Reuters](#) (3/20, Cowan, Lawder) reports that Speaker Boehner announced on Thursday that defense hawks will be allowed to push for further increases in defense funding next week, setting off a potential battle as the House sets its budget priorities. Boehner said, “There is overwhelming support in our conference for providing additional resources to protect our national security.” [Politico](#) (3/19, Bresnahan, Sherman, 669K) reported that Boehner told reporters that the leadership “would add the additional \$20 billion in defense funding in Rules.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Peterson, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that Boehner’s move comes after House GOP leaders failed to convince the House Budget Committee on Wednesday night to further increase defense spending, and is necessary to ensure sufficient defense hawk support for the overall budget. [The Hill](#) (3/19, Becker, Needham, Matishak, 224K) reported that Rep. Mike Turner, “who led a group of 70 House Republicans seeking more robust defense spending in the budget, signaled Thursday that he could back the latest compromise, and that the GOP had finally found the way out of its problem.”

[Roll Call](#) (3/20, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 102K) covers the action, and says that going forward, the “whip operation to secure support for the budget” in the full House “will be a challenge, with Republican leaders well aware that they aren’t going to get any Democrats to help make up for a big shortfall.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Howell, 644K) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi “wondered aloud Thursday if the GOP had the votes to pass the ‘same old warmed-over stew.’”

In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M), Brookings fellow and contributing columnist Robert Kagan writes that Republicans have been touting their “hawkishness” in recent months, but “have not been very clear about what they would do differently” than the Administration and have “not talked much about the possible costs of an alternative approach.” He says that the ability of the GOP to provide sufficient defense funding will be a test to see if they can back up their talk.

Senate To Start Budget Work On Monday. [The Hill](#) (3/20, Carney, 224K) reports in its “Floor Action” blog that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Thursday that the “full Senate will start its work on the Republican

budget Monday,” and that there will be at least one vote. Senate Republicans “released their budget Wednesday, and the resolution passed through the Senate Budget Committee on Thursday evening.” Once the Senate passes a budget resolution, McConnell said that the chamber will return to the human trafficking legislation, which has been held up by a battle of abortion legislation.

OBAMA ORDERS CUTS IN FEDERAL GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS. The President’s signing of an executive order Thursday reducing Federal greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent was not covered on any of last night’s network newscasts, but is generating reports in the nation’s major dailies and wires. Reports note that the move represents the latest in a string of executive actions by the President and fulfills a commitment he made last year as part of a climate deal with China.

The executive order, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports, “set new goals for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of federal agencies,” but notes that the Federal government’s “share of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States is minuscule — less than 1 percent in 2013.” But the goals are “in line with a commitment” the US made as part of a climate deal with China.

The AP (3/20, Lederman) says that by reducing pollution “within the US government, Obama sought to increase political pressure on other nations to deal seriously with climate change.” During a visit to DOE headquarters, the President said, “We thought it was important for us to lead by example. These are ambitious goals, but we know they’re achievable goals.”

[USA Today](#) (3/20, Jackson, 4.95M) notes the executive order “also directed the government to increase its use of renewable resources to 30% of energy use,” and the White House announced that “several major federal suppliers — including IBM, General Electric, Northrop Grumman and Honeywell — have committed to their own reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.”

White House senior adviser Brian Deese, the [Washington Post](#) (3/19, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports, “estimated the new measures will save \$18 billion.” [Reuters](#) (3/20, Walsh, Edwards) quotes Deese as saying that while the Federal government’s share of greenhouse gas emissions is “modest,” the “potential from this announcement, however, is significant both because we can drive substantial reductions across the entire federal footprint and because our efforts to do that leverage both innovation and investment in the private sector.” [McClatchy](#) (3/20, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) also reports the remarks by Deese.

The [Detroit News](#) (3/20, Shepardson, 577K) notes the order includes reducing emissions from the Federal government’s “655,000 vehicles by 30 percent by 2025.” Also running similar reporting on the move this morning are [Vox](#) (3/20, Plumer, 737K), the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Sherfinski, Wolfgang, Wolfgang, 644K), and [The Hill](#) (3/20, Cama, 224K), among others.

But [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Olorunnipa, 169K) reports Chris Warren, a spokesman for the Institute for Energy Research, said Obama’s move “will have no impact on global temperatures,” and accused the President of “trying to boost his climate credentials to appease the national environmental lobby, regardless of what it means for the average American.”

McConnell Urges States To Help Resist Obama’s “War On Coal.” The [New York Times](#) (3/19, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on its front page that Senate Majority Leader McConnell has begun “an aggressive campaign to block President Obama’s climate change agenda in statehouses and courtrooms across the country, arenas far beyond Mr. McConnell’s official reach and authority.” His campaign is aimed at stopping a set of EPA regulations requiring states to reduce carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, but since he is “limited in how he can use his role in the Senate to block regulations, he has taken the unusual step of reaching out to governors.”

Interior To Issue Fracking Regulations Today. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the Interior Department today is expected to announce long-awaited regulations for hydraulic fracturing in the oil and natural-gas industries. Interior Secretary Jewell said Tuesday, “The rule will include measures to protect our nation’s groundwater—requiring operators to construct sound wells, to disclose the chemicals they use, and to safely recover and handle fluids used in the process.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “*Bloodshed In Tunisia.*” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Subscription

Publication, 9.97M) says the attack on the National Bardo Museum in Tunis “lays bare the extent to which extremists...now threaten Tunisia, the only success story of the Arab Spring.” According to the Times, the country “will need substantial international help” to remain “an example of sanity in a region consumed by chaos and dominated by authoritarian governments.”

U.S. Allies, Lured By China's Bank. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorializes that President Obama “has mishandled the issue” of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The Times says the Administration should have “worked with its allies to produce a set of common principles that could then be negotiated with the Chinese,” but “Instead, it seems to have no coherent plan for dealing with the new bank.”

The Schneiderman Remedy For Sleaze. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says New York state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman’s “ethics proposals” are “a challenge to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s promised reforms.” The Times says Schneiderman’s “rare blast is a reminder to Mr. Cuomo that while legislatures are whining about having to change the status quo, others are pushing for a real cleanup of Albany.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “An ObamaCare Plan Beats No Plan.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that if the Supreme Court strikes down ACA subsidies, the GOP needs to be ready with an alternative. The Journal predicts that Democrats will use the political crisis to call for restoring the subsidies, and having no response would lead to political defeat for Republicans.

“The IRS Gets Out The Vote.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) writes that the President wants to require mandatory voting, but it wouldn’t counteract money in politics. The Journal suggests the President over-imposes legal mandates, linking the comments to the attempts to fine Hobby Lobby for violating the contraceptive mandate and the tax penalty for not having health insurance.

“China Trounces US ‘Smart Power.’” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the success of China in enticing countries to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) makes the Asia-Pacific trade agreement even more important.

“Islamic State Threatens Tunisia.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that the US and France must follow through on vows to assist Tunisia’s counter-terrorism efforts in order to ensure the country’s status a success from the Arab Spring.

WASHINGTON POST. “An Electoral College Tilt.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) criticizes “a Michigan Republican’s proposal to apportion the state’s electoral votes by congressional district.” Using such a system would only increase the chances of candidates winning the popular vote but losing in the electoral college. The Post credits the plan to “raw partisanship,” as “the only rationale for the new method” is its “persistent and significant pro-GOP bias.”

“Avoiding A Budget Sinkhole.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) calls on Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to “keep a stiff spine” and oppose attempts by the legislature to raid the state pension fund as part of their efforts to reverse budget cuts. The Post concludes that either budget cuts or new taxes will restore health to the fund and admonishes Hogan that his victories in addressing the state’s long-term structural deficit “will be Pyrrhic” if the fund is raided again.

“Poisonous Interference.”

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

Currencies Go On Wild Ride, Fueled By Fed
Key FTC Staff Sought Google Antitrust Suit
Netanyahu Reverses On Palestinian State Again
Clinton Charity Tapped Foreign Friends

New York Times:

McConnell Wants States' Help Against Obama "War On Coal"
Scientists Seek Ban On Method Of Editing The Human Genome
Israel Results Reverberates For Clinton
Israel Leader Backs Off Stand On 2-State Option
Huge Day Of NCAA Upsets Not To Be Taken Sitting Down
In Murder Intrigue, A Chechen Strongman Fiercely Loyal To Putin

Washington Post:

Arrest Of Black U-Va. Student Spurs Look At Alcohol Agency
Netanyahu Backtracks On Election Eve Pledge
Tracking Down Ebola's Hiding Places
Islamic State Claims Attack In Tunisia That Killed 20 Tourists
For Generations Of DC Kids, Miss McAbee Has Made It All Better

Financial Times:

Not Happy: Pharrell Williams Speaks On Over Copyright Ruling
Fed's Mixed Signals Expose Gulf With Markets Over Rate Cut Expectations
Mutiny Stirs As Bounty's Descendants Draw Swords Over Who Rules Their Island

Washington Times:

Intelligence Community Softens Iran Threat Rhetoric Amid Obama Nuclear Talks
Forest Service Workers Told To Test Own 'Unconscious Bias' On Race, Sexuality
Iowa Mennonite Pastor Faces Deportation In First Big Test Case For Obama Amnesty
Republican Budget Proposals A Tough Sell Within Increasingly Polarized GOP
Melo Trimble Exceeds Expectations, Ignites Terrapins

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Weather Forecast; Robert Durst-Murder Charge; Caroline Kennedy-Death Threats; Tunisia-Terror Attack; NFL Domestic Abuse Case; Seattle-Drone Incident; Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; Target-Data Breach Settlement; Recall Vehicles Investigation; California-Wine Lawsuit; Music Copyright Case-Pharrell Comments.

CBS: Tunisia-Terror Attack; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Weather Forecast; Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; State Of Black American Report; Syria-Chemical Attack Victims; Denver-Craigslist Murder; Florida-Craigslist Safety; California-Police Chase Video; Obama-Prince Charles Visit.

NBC: Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Boston Marathon Bomber Trial; Tunisia-Terror Attack; Caroline Kennedy-Death Threats; Robert Durst-Murder Charge; California-Drought Relief Fund Proposal; Weather Forecast; Wi-Fi Warning; Obama-Prince Charles Visit; \$20 Bill Petition.

Network TV At A Glance:

UVA-Police Brutality Investigation – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
Tunisia-Terror Attack – 6 minutes
Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments – 5 minutes, 40 seconds
Robert Durst-Murder Charge – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
Boston Marathon Bombing Trial – 3 minutes, 5 seconds
Weather Forecast – 2 minutes, 55 seconds
Caroline Kennedy-Death Threats – 40 seconds
Obama-Prince Charles Visit – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Obama-Video Message To Iran; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Mississippi-Murder Investigation; NFL-Domestic Violence Case.

CBS: Obama-Video Message To Iran; GOP-Iranian Nuclear Deal; Obama-Netanyahu Phone Call; Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; Congress-Budget Debate; Secret Service Misconduct Investigation; Weather Forecast.

FOX: Iran-Nuclear Talks; Obama-Video Message To Iran; Netanyahu-Proposed Iranian Nuclear Deal; EU-Russia Sanctions; Russia-War Games Expanded; NCAA Basketball Tournament; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Mississippi-Murder Investigation; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Wall Street.

NPR: Obama-Video Message To Iran; Iran-Nuclear Talks; Mississippi-Murder Investigation; Obama-SNAP Reform Grants; Lufthansa Pilot Strike; IEP-Mexican Drug War Cost; EU-Russia Sanctions; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — With the Vice President, receive the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; President Obama will host the second-annual White House Student Film Festival, East Room, open press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden delivers remarks at the Futures Without Violence seventh biennial National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence.

MICHELLE OBAMA — Obama will travel to Japan and Cambodia from March 18-22, 2015. She will visit Tokyo on March 18-19, Kyoto on March 20, and Siem Reap on March 21-22.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: The House is not in session.

Other: **THE PRINCE OF WALES** — March 17 – 20. Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall will make a four day visit to the United States of America from 17th – 19th March 2015 in Washington, DC then in Kentucky on the 20th. Media wishing to accredit for HRH The Prince of Wales engagement at the National Archives, please complete the online form at the following link: www.sa-meetings.com/SpringRoyalUSAVisit For more information about The Prince of Wales visit www.princeofwales.gov.uk Contacts: British embassy (202) 588-6500. Notes: Contact the British Embassy for credentials and coverage details springroyalusavisit@gmail.com (202) 588-6500. <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/press-releases/further-details-released-the-prince-of-wales-and-the-duchess-of-cornwalls-visit>.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — March 19 – 21. The 7th Biennial National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence aims to advance the healthcare system's response to domestic and sexual violence. Media Contacts: Marsha Robertson, mrobertson@futureswithoutviolence.org, 415.828.4520; Lauren Brisbo, Lbrisbo@futureswithoutviolence.org, 206.931.3284. <https://www.creativegroupinc.com/nchdv/Public/ShowPage.aspx?PageId=170551>. Highlights: Scheduled remarks by Vice President Biden. Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel.

REPUBLICAN LEGAL CONFERENCE — 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Republican National Lawyers Association holds its 30th Anniversary National Policy Conference, "The Rise of the Imperial Presidency." The conference will feature many leaders of the legal and political worlds on "the hottest current political and legal topics." Scheduled speakers include Senator Bob Corker, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Senator Rob Portman. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW. Contacts: Michael Thielen, press@republicanlawyer.net, 202-802-0437. On the Net: <http://www.rmla.org/2015press.pdf>, Schedule.

US CHAMBER – JOINT EMPLOYER STANDARD — 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The US Chamber of Commerce will host an event focused on the National Labor Relations Board's reexamination of the joint employer standard. The program will highlight new research on how reinterpretation of the standard could create new liabilities for employers and spillover effects across multiple sectors of the economy. The event will feature a keynote address from CKE Restaurants CEO Andrew F. Puzder and remarks by US Chamber President and CEO Thomas J. Donohue. Location: US Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW. Notes: Credentialed members of the media are invited to attend. To register, email press@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5682.

GEORGETOWN LAW – NATIONAL SECURITY, CLIMATE CHANGE — 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Georgetown Law hosts "Threat-Multiplier: Exploring the National Security Law and Policy Implications of Climate Change". The keynote address will be delivered by Alice Hill, senior director for resilience policy, National Security Council staff. A panel discussion moderated by Vicki Arroyo, executive director of the Georgetown Climate Center. <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/news/press-releases/threat-multiplier-exploring-the-national-security-law-and-policy-implications-of-climate-change.cfm>. Highlights: 10 a.m. Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment John Conger participates in a panel discussion on the effects of climate change on national security, national policy, and law. Location: 12th floor, Gewirz Student Center, Georgetown Law campus, 120 F Street, NW.

DEMPSEY RETIREMENT – ASH CARTER — 4 p.m. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey provide remarks at the retirement ceremony honoring Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright for her years of dedicated service to the

nation in the Pentagon Auditorium, Room BH-650, Washington, District of Columbia.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's what everyone's talking about tonight. During a speech in Cleveland yesterday, President Obama criticized the GOP's budget proposal and said it's just a path to prosperity for those who are already prospering. Then he stopped to wipe the spit off everyone in the front row."

Jimmy Fallon: "During that same speech, President Obama discussed the country's successful economy and said, 'I'm going to take a little credit.' Then the people at the rally were like, 'Dude, we're all here in the middle of the day because we don't have jobs. So stop talking about how good the economy is.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right. Obama discussed the successful economy and said 'I'm going to take a little credit.' Then the economy got bad again and he was like, 'Republicans did it.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "And this week, President Obama was photographed wearing a large black electronic watch that many people believe is his fitness tracker. Then Obama's Secret Service agent said, 'Hey, that's kind of like the thing I have to wear on my ankle.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama was photographed wearing a fitness tracker that features a GPS, heart monitor, and step counter. Not to be outdone, Joe Biden was photographed wearing a necklace with his name, address, and allergies in case he gets lost."

Jimmy Fallon: "Russia confirmed that Kim Jong-Un will be traveling to Moscow for the country's victory day celebrations. Although, it could get awkward when he gets there and Russian people try to crack him open to see if a smaller Kim Jong-Un's inside."

Seth Meyers: "There's been a lot of news about the Secret Service lately. The head of the secret service spoke to congress today and lashed out. He lashed out at reports that agents had crashed a vehicle near the White House. But in his defense, he was pretty drunk."

Seth Meyers: "Mitt Romney said this week that his biggest campaign mistake in 2012 was not communicating well with minorities. In fact, the only minority he did well with was Romney voters."

Conan O'Brien: "President Obama has offered up an interesting idea. I don't know if you heard this. President Obama has suggested the idea of making voting mandatory for all Americans. Everyone would have to vote. Then Obama watched two minutes of 'Duck Dynasty' and said scratch that."

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

In case you missed it: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION LAUNCH #FINDYOURPARK

1 message

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
To: "DOI_Politicals@ios.doi.gov" <DOI_Politicals@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 7:01 PM

A big day for the National Park Service and Park Foundation - the kick off to their Centennial Year advertising campaign.

Flagging for you all their announcement and the star power behind their campaign, especially flagging this:

First Lady Michelle Obama recently filmed her [Find Your Park story](#), highlighting President's Park, home to the White House, and her family's connection to one of the newest national parks, Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

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

From: **National Park Service** <news@meltwaterpress.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 9:45 AM
Subject: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION LAUNCH #FINDYOURPARK
To: april_slayton@nps.gov



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National Park Foundation
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March 30, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS: National Park Service, April Slayton, 202-208-6843, april_slayton@nps.gov

National Park Foundation, Alanna Sobel, 202-796-2538, asobel@nationalparks.org

GREY, Meg Martin, 212-546-2451, meg.martin@grey.com

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION LAUNCH #FINDYOURPARK, ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO CONNECT WITH AND CELEBRATE OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Michelle Obama and Laura Bush to Serve as Honorary Co-Chairs to Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial in 2016

Bill Nye, Bella Thorne, Roselyn Sanchez, Terrence J. and Mary Lambert Share Their National Park Stories at FindYourPark.com and on Social Media and Encourage Others to do the Same

WASHINGTON (March 30, 2015) – The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation today announced the launch of Find Your Park, a public awareness and education campaign celebrating the milestone centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and setting the stage for the next 100 years. First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Laura Bush will serve as honorary co-chairs to promote the celebration of the 2016 centennial and to encourage people to connect with their favorite parks and public lands. First Lady Michelle Obama recently filmed her Find Your Park story, highlighting President's Park, home to the White House, and her family's connection to one of the newest national parks, Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

Find Your Park invites the public to see that a national park is more than just a place -- it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. Beyond vast landscapes, the campaign highlights historical, urban, and cultural parks, as well as National Park Service programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture, and history in communities nationwide. Further, Find Your Park encourages people to find their own personal connections within the network of national parks and public lands.

"I am thrilled to be serving as the honorary co-chair of the National Parks Centennial Celebration with First Lady Laura Bush. Since the launch of

Let's Move! Outside in 2010, the National Park Foundation has been encouraging kids and families to get active, get outside, and take advantage of America's great outdoors," said **First Lady Michelle Obama**. "I look forward to celebrating the National Park Service's 100th anniversary and encouraging people across the country to 'Find Your Park,' whether it's in your backyard, in your hometown, or in one of our beautiful national parks."

"From Acadia National Park on the East Coast, to Yosemite on the West; from Glacier National Park in the North, to Big Bend in the South; I've collected national parks like stamps. I've even lived in a national park, the White House," said **Mrs. Laura Bush**. "Our national parks are the treasures of our country. I am happy to celebrate 100 years of America's best idea, our national parks. I invite all Americans to join me in Find Your Park."

As co-chairs, Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Bush will engage young Americans, connecting them with parks and National Park Service programs, and encouraging them to share Find Your Park stories and experiences.

The campaign to connect national parks with the next generation comes at a critical time. According to a study conducted by Hall & Partners on behalf of the National Park Foundation, while approximately 80% of Americans have heard of the National Park Service, only 38% are at all familiar with the organization and all that they do.

"There is something for everyone in our 407 national parks, whether it is the breathtaking landscapes or the historical and cultural sites that tell the story of our country," said **Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell**. "As we approach the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, this is a perfect time for all Americans - especially young people - to Find Your Park, from neighborhood parks to national parks and all public lands in between."

"The centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the National Park Service to reflect on our accomplishments and to use all of our parks and programs to connect all Americans and visitors from around the world with the natural, cultural and historic treasures in our care," said **National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis**. "As a new generation responds to Find Your Park, I am confident that this campaign will have a powerful impact that will last through our next 100 years."

"We believe that Find Your Park will inspire people everywhere to engage more deeply and more often with the National Park Service and its transformative work in communities across the country," said **National Park Foundation Interim President Dan Wenk**. "By connecting the next generation with our national parks in meaningful ways, we are building a movement that will help ensure that these special places are protected well beyond the next 100 years."

Centennial Ambassadors **Bill Nye** (scientist), **Bella Thorne** (TV and film actress), **Roselyn Sanchez** (TV and film actress), **Terrence J.** (TV personality) and **Mary Lambert** (singer/songwriter and LGBT advocate) are helping to reach the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. To inspire participation in the Find Your Park movement, each of them has filmed and shared their own personal national park story at different places across the country:

- Bill Nye at Statue of Liberty National Monument, General Grant National Memorial, Castle Clinton National Monument
- Bella Thorne at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
- Roselyn Sanchez at Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Terrence J. at Yosemite National Park
- Mary Lambert at Boston National Historical Park

You can read quotes from each of them and find out how they found their park on the [National Park Foundation's blog](#) today.

At the heart of this engagement effort is the public invitation to share park experiences and memories at [FindYourPark.com](#), which will feature an interactive gallery of inspirational stories from the general public, National Park Service employees, and celebrities. Content will be socialized with #FindYourPark. Also on [FindYourPark.com](#) is a searchable list of ideas for ways to find your park, including in-park and digital activities.

Some of the most admired companies in the world are supporting the National Park Foundation's efforts for Find Your Park, including American Express, Budweiser, Subaru, REI, Humana and Disney. Additional partners include Coleman, Coca-Cola and Accenture.

The National Park Foundation is working with GREY NY, one of the world's leading advertising and communications agencies, to develop and implement the integrated campaign. Find Your Park will include a stream of programs, exhibits, events and public activities throughout 2015 and 2016 that will encourage everyone to find their park.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at: www.nps.gov

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

The National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks and nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation raises private funds to help PROTECT more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts, CONNECT all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture and rich history, and INSPIRE the next generation of park stewards. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at www.nationalparks.org.

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Contact information: National Park Service, National Park Service-WINVALE, 290 Broadway Lbby 2, New York, NY 100071892

—
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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

GREENWIRE: Now 'conversant' in portfolio, Jewell plans out 2nd half of term

1 message

Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 1:19 PM

INTERIOR:

Now 'conversant' in portfolio, Jewell plans out 2nd half of term

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter
Published: Monday, April 13, 2015

When Sally Jewell was sworn in as secretary of the Interior on April 12, 2013, the Beltway outsider needed daily crash courses in how to run the nation's largest land management agency with its conflicting goals of resource development and conservation.

"It was like studying for a final every night," Jewell said.

But two years into her tenure, Jewell says she's "conversant" in Interior's portfolio of wildlife protection, energy development, recreation and historical preservation on roughly one-fifth of the nation's land, in addition to improving the quality of life for American Indians.

In the next two years, Jewell, 59, said she hopes to make Interior's mission more relevant to young people and connect more Americans with the outdoors. She plans to implement "more thoughtful planning, more thoughtful regulation" of energy development on the nation's lands and waters.

"I feel really great about where I am right now, and I feel great about what I think we can get accomplished in the coming two years," Jewell said in an interview with *Greenwire*. "I feel like I'm beyond the halfway point."

Jewell has a full policy agenda for the remainder of President Obama's second term. She'll be overseeing a Bureau of Land Management rule to reduce methane pollution from oil and gas wells on public lands and making tough decisions on whether to allow future offshore drilling, particularly in the Arctic.

She'll also play a major role in whether the Fish and Wildlife Service deems the greater sage grouse, the bird that has been the subject of much controversy, worthy of federal protections in late September, a decision that could have important ramifications for land use in the West and is almost certain to be challenged in court.

Jewell will also be Obama's emissary to the West as the White House considers which lands to set aside as national monuments.

Since replacing Ken Salazar, Jewell has seen dozens of sage grouse and has watched polar bears meander across a beach in Kaktovik, Alaska, a battleground in Jewell's support of wilderness protections in the oil-rich Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She has overseen the creation of a handful of new national monuments; crafted and finalized new rules for oil and gas exploration on public lands and in the Arctic; and led a major federal-state partnership to preserve sage grouse.

She has also implemented controversial decisions to protect two iconic wildlife refuges in Alaska and cordon off sensitive Arctic waters from future oil and gas drilling -- taking fire from an Alaska senator with outsized control over Interior's programs and budget.

When Jewell inherited Interior, its finances, like those of other federal agencies, were in disarray.

Congress had failed to reach a deficit deal, which triggered across-the-board sequestration cuts to every Interior program, including operation of its more than 400 national park units and approval of oil and gas leases in the West. Jewell, the former CEO of outdoor retailer REI, said then that "you would never run a business this way."

It got worse several months later, in October, when the government shut down for 16 days, shuttering national

parks and placing most of Interior's 70,000 employees on an unwelcome furlough.

"Anything from there is up," Jewell said last month.

Things did improve in late 2013 when then-budget chiefs Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) struck a deal to lift the sequester in 2014 and 2015, helping restore Interior services, Jewell said.

But the sequester is slated to return in fiscal 2016 now that Republicans have taken control of both chambers of Congress, and Jewell is worried.

Barring a deal, Interior's \$13.2 billion request -- which includes Jewell's policy goals to increase conservation funding, boost youth employment and accelerate restoration of sage grouse lands, among others -- is "wishful thinking," according to Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who controls the agency's budget.

"I'm hopeful Congress will get past sequestration," Jewell said. "For critics and supporters, no one can argue that our economy is in much better shape and that things like the stimulus actually worked."

Fiscal hawks in Congress want to slash Interior's budget, but privately they "also want something from me that costs money from the Interior's budget," Jewell said. "So the irony is palpable."

Achievements and embarrassments

Jewell said she's proud of the Obama administration's work in Indian Country. She touted Obama's visit last June to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, the creation in summer 2013 of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, and Interior's work on improving the Indian education system.

"We are moving beyond random acts of kindness in disparate parts of the budget to Indian Country, and moving to something that's more focused on supporting what the tribes say they need," Jewell said.

Jewell also touted the Park Service's efforts to "tell the story of America through our assets" as it seeks to become more relevant to youth and minorities in the run-up to its 2016 centennial.

"We're really lining ourselves up well to create an environment where a new generation is going to find the national parks more relevant to them in the future than they have in the past," she said.

Jewell was speaking by telephone from Hawaii, where she had joined Gov. David Ige (D) and Hawaii Democratic Sens. Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument, which Obama designated in February to preserve and interpret Hawaii's largest and longest-used confinement camp for Japanese Americans, immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

Jewell's Park Service has elevated the stories of other historically marginalized Americans.

It announced a study last May to identify sites of importance to the civil rights struggle of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. In February, Obama created a national monument protecting Chicago's Pullman historic district, a site of significance for the nation's labor and civil rights movements that became the first Park Service site in the Windy City.

Obama will continue to use the Antiquities Act in his final years in office, Jewell said.

"We're making progress where Congress has not been able to," Jewell said. "The president has used his pen judiciously but effectively."

When Congress has passed legislation, it has not always been to Jewell's liking.

Jewell last December said she was "profoundly" upset that Congress had tucked a provision into a massive public lands package to facilitate a copper mine in Arizona, which Jewell called an affront to American Indians. Jewell later blasted Congress' decision to block Endangered Species Act protections for sage grouse, assailing members for "political posturing."

Jewell has since brokered major agreements with states, landowners and businesses to preserve the greater sage grouse's 165 million acres of Western habitat and raised awareness of how disappearing sagebrush will affect hundreds of other species.

The job has offered plenty of time in the field, where Jewell, an avid outdoorswoman, feels at home.

Jewell in late March accompanied Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (D) on a pre-dawn visit to a sage grouse breeding ground in central Oregon to view the bird's flamboyant mating ritual. Jewell said she counted 26 grouse.

But Jewell, who has climbed Antarctica's Vinson Massif and made seven successful summits of Mount Rainier in her home state of Washington, said she has "hardly climbed anything" since taking office.

Her tallest conquests were 4,800-foot Mailbox Peak, outside her Seattle-area home, during a holiday and Shenandoah National Park's Old Rag Mountain. She said she also takes personal visits to Catoctin Mountain Park in north-central Maryland and hikes around Harper's Ferry National Historic Park, about an hour's drive from Washington, D.C.

"I'm not looking for vertical at this point," she said. "I'm just looking for out -- outside."

She will be camping in a national park later this month with her husband, Warren, but wouldn't say where, "because I don't want company."

Jewell recalled some embarrassing moments while adjusting to the D.C. spotlight.

In April 2013, a couple of weeks into her tenure and "thinking I was less visible than I actually was," a sweaty Jewell hopped on a Metro train in shorts and a T-shirt, "looking like a real grunge," after moving furniture at her new apartment. She was picking up a pair of glasses and a party purse for that night's White House Correspondents' Dinner but was quickly recognized by a man who said he was taking photographs for the Canadian Embassy.

"I learned that in these jobs, you're more on display than you think you are," she said.

Later that day, Jewell was lifting a sofa up the stairs at her apartment with her hair only half done when someone rang her doorbell. It was Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and Obama's former chief of staff. He had arrived 30 minutes early.

Cheers and jeers

Interior watchers say Jewell deserves a mixture of praise and criticism for her first two years in office.

"Her grade would be pretty much incomplete at this point, and that's not a bad thing," said Whit Fosburgh, CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a sportsmen's conservation group.

Fosburgh praised Jewell for advancing protections for sage grouse, modernizing BLM's land-use planning, expanding the use of landscape-scale mitigation, and reforming oil and gas lease sales.

"These are things that are moving in the right direction and could represent a fundamental change in how our public lands are managed," he said. "But they're not across the finish line yet."

Jewell has also done a commendable job marshaling Interior's 70,000 employees around the Obama agenda, prodding some career employees who have been resistant to change, Fosburgh said.

"She's done a nice job keeping various factions within the department moving in the right direction on sage grouse," Fosburgh said. "She's been to a large degree the adult in the room making sure everyone moves toward a common goal."

Jewell has been less successful in nurturing relationships on Capitol Hill, Fosburgh said. Salazar, by contrast, was a seasoned politician and former Democratic senator for Colorado who was "probably the most gregarious person on Earth," including on Capitol Hill, Fosburgh said.

"Sally by nature is more of an introvert," Fosburgh said.

Jewell has had a particularly rough relationship with Murkowski, who has hounded Jewell ever since the secretary rejected a proposed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that Alaskans wanted to improve public safety.

But what Jewell has lacked in political chops, she has made up for with her policy expertise, said Brian

Rutledge, vice president of the National Audubon Society.

Rutledge praised Jewell's depth of understanding of sagebrush habitats in the West and said she's done an impressive job keeping states at the bargaining table.

"She didn't just go for a hike with us in the sagebrush," Rutledge said. "She listens, studies and understands the importance."

Others wonder whether Jewell's work is enough to save the sage grouse.

"Interior's sage grouse framework is woefully inadequate to the task of preventing extinction, much less [promoting] recovery, of this icon of the West," said John Horning, executive director of WildEarth Guardians.

Jewell has come up short on climate change by failing to curb extraction of oil, gas and coal from Interior lands, which, when burned, are a major source of domestic global warming emissions, Horning said.

"If Secretary Jewell wanted a real climate legacy -- one to match EPA's -- she'd commit today to keeping some significant percentage of fossil fuels in the ground," Horning said. "Then she'd have the respect of climate activists and the gratitude of countless future generations."

But if she keeps too much of those minerals in the ground, Jewell risks a backlash from fossil fuel groups.

Rebecca Watson, who was Interior assistant secretary for land and minerals management during the George W. Bush administration, said commodities industries -- grazing and oil and gas, in particular -- will "pay the price" for Interior's efforts to conserve BLM lands for sage grouse.

"Secretary Jewell wants to paint a picture of federal and state cooperation to head off a listing by Interior's [Fish and Wildlife Service]," she said. "But meanwhile, BLM is moving ahead without the states, according to the schedule set by the victorious environmental hard-liners in litigation."

--

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Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

For review: NHL Designations

9 messages

Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 11:51 AM

To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Stlayton <april_stlayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Stephanie Toothman <stephanie_toothman@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_damico@nps.gov>, Patricia Henry <patty_henry@nps.gov>

Below and attached is the current draft of this release, set to go out at 12pm ET. **Please send all edits directly to me by 6pm ET today.**

NPS/NHL team - looking to you for the outstanding pieces of this we discussed offline.

Thank you!

Emily

April 15, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
NPS/NHL Contact

Secretary Jewell, Park Service Director Jarvis Announce Five New National Historic Landmarks, Highlighting America's Diverse Heritage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis today announced the designation of five new national historic landmarks, ranging from a 19th century reservoir in Massachusetts to a home in Indiana designed by Frank Lloyd Wright to provide affordable housing for average Americans.

The new landmarks also include a historic railroad bridge in California, a hotel in Yellowstone National Park, and a conference center in Detroit designed by renowned architect Minoru Yamasaki.

“These sites join more than 2,500 other landmarks that tell America’s story,” said Secretary Jewell. “From the remarkable strides made in engineering during the 19th century to the vision of our great architects, they are an important part of the tapestry of our nation’s heritage.”

“National historic landmarks preserve some of our nation’s most remarkable places and demonstrate the power of partnerships between the National Park Service and historic property owners,” said Director Jarvis. “These new landmarks offer opportunities for more Americans to make personal connections with our nation’s cultural and historical heritage and have the potential to drive tourism and boost local economies.”

National Historic Landmarks recognize places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The six new landmarks are:

Samara (John E. and Catherine E. Christian House), West Lafayette, Indiana

Completed in 1956, Samara is an outstanding and mature example of a Usonian house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright during his late period (1941-59). It is a remarkably complete Usonian design, incorporating over forty Wrightian design elements, including character-defining Usonian features such as modular design, indoor-outdoor connections, slab floor construction, flat roofs, and open-plan public spaces conducive to simple living for average middle-class families.

Lake Hotel, Yellowstone National Park, Teton County, Wyoming

Initially constructed in 1891, the Lake Hotel was entirely reconceived in the first decades of the twentieth century as a grand resort hotel displaying the Colonial Revival style as adapted to the context of a national park in the western United States. Located on the north shore of Yellowstone Lake, the hotel expansion and redesign was spearheaded by noted architect Robert C. Reamer.

California Powder Works Bridge, Santa Cruz County, California

Constructed in 1872, this covered bridge is one of the most outstanding surviving examples of a Smith Truss, a nationally significant timber truss type developed and patented in 1867 by Robert W. Smith in Toledo, Ohio. This truss type features diagonal truss web members that resulted in a light, strong, and efficient design whose components could be mass-produced at a factory and shipped to distant sites.

McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Detroit, Michigan

The McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State University, completed in 1958, is a benchmark work in the career of Japanese-American Minoru Yamasaki, one of the twentieth century’s most important Modern architects. The building’s design represents a key turning point in Yamasaki’s career as he moved away from International Style orthodoxy into his own distinct vision of Modernism, later considered part of the stylistic trend “New Formalism.”

Brookline Reservoir of the Cochituate Aqueduct, Brookline, Massachusetts

Constructed in 1848, the Brookline Reservoir represents one of the most publicly-accessible and architecturally-distinguished components of early nineteenth-century public water supply technology. Its Principal Gatehouse is also consequential for the technical development of wrought iron as a structural and building envelope

material in architecture, and the cultural acceptance of iron technology in public architecture.


Additional information and pictures of the designated properties can be found at LINK.

Established in 1935, the National Historic Landmarks Program is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The agency works with preservation officials, private property owners, and other partners interested in nominating properties for National Historic Landmark designation. Completed nominations are reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, which makes recommendations for designation to the Secretary of the Interior. If selected, property ownership remains the same but each site receives a designation letter and is eligible for technical preservation advice.

The National Historic Landmarks Program is one of more than a dozen programs administered by the National Park Service that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve our nation's shared history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

###

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Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 4:34 PM
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Stephanie Toothman <stephanie_toothman@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_d'amico@nps.gov>, Patricia Henry <patty_henry@nps.gov>

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 4:35 PM
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Cc: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Stephanie Toothman <stephanie_toothman@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_d'amico@nps.gov>, Patricia Henry <patty_henry@nps.gov>


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Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 11:13 AM
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Stephanie Toothman <stephanie_toothman@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_d'amico@nps.gov>, Patricia Henry <patty_henry@nps.gov>

Final release attached. Still sending at 12pm ET. Thanks, all!

On Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 11:51 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 11:16 AM
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Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 11:22 AM
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>

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Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 1:06 PM
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Stephanie Toothman <stephanie_toothman@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_d'amico@nps.gov>, Patricia Henry <patty_henry@nps.gov>

[Hotel in Yellowstone designated as national historic landmark](#)

KDIK/KXPI (ABC) // April 15, 2015

A hotel in Yellowstone National Park has been named one of five new national historic landmarks.

[Frank Lloyd Wright home designated historic landmark](#)

WLFI // Alexandra Kruczek and Janice O'Shea // April 15, 2015

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — The Frank Lloyd Wright home in West Lafayette is a newly-designated National Historic Landmark.

[WL's Samara house added to landmark registry](#)

Lafayette Journal & Courier // Mikel Livingston // April 15, 2015

West Lafayette's Samara house has been added to the national historic landmarks register. The U.S. Department of the Interior made the announcement Wednesday, honoring the home designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

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Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Stephanie

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/04/15/detroit-landmark-named/25823053/>

McGregor Center named historic landmark

By **Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press** 3:40 p.m. EDT April 15, 2015



(Photo: John Gallagher/Detroit Free Press)

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<http://www.kulr8.com/story/28810457/lake-hotel-named-national-historic-landmark>

WASHINGTON — The McGregor Memorial Conference Center, a Modernist masterpiece located at Detroit's Wayne State University, was among five sites added to the nation's list of historic landmarks today by the National Park Service.

An Indiana house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the Lake Hotel in Yellowstone National Park, an 1872 covered bridge in California and the Brookline Reservoir in Massachusetts were the other sites added to the list of National Historic Landmarks, joining more than 2,500 other sites.

Designed by renowned Japanese-American Minoru Yamasaki, who also designed the World Trade Center towers in New York City, the two-story steel-frame and concrete folded slab McGregor Memorial Conference Center was built in an evolving International style, which eventually gave Yamasaki an worldwide reputation.

"Beautiful architecture and landscape are some of the signatures of our Midtown Detroit campus and we are honored to have the National Park Service recognize one of its most iconic buildings," Wayne State President M. Roy Wilson said. "Anyone who would like to visit our campus and check out the McGregor Memorial Conference Center and the other historic buildings is always welcome."

As the Free Press' John Gallagher wrote in 2010, Yamasaki, in his best work, "softened and humanized the sometimes cold and rigid glass-box style of architecture that prevailed" in the 1950s and '60s using "geometric patterns as decoration, pearl-white exteriors and abundant glass."

Completed in 1958, the conference center — financed by the McGregor Foundation and one of four structures designed by Yamasaki at Wayne State — includes meeting rooms and reception space overlooking a lobby featuring free-standing columns and partitions highlighted with teakwood.

With a refurbished reflecting pond and sculpture garden nearby, the conference center remains the university's primary conference facility. In 2013, the Free Press called it "jewel-like" and "a touchstone of greatness."

That multi-million-dollar project included all guest rooms, dining room, bar and public spaces and a redesigned dell.

Other properties honored by the designation include: The California Powder Works Bridge in Santa Cruz County, California; the McGregor Memorial Conference Center in D

Once a property is selected, the property ownership remains the same but each site receives a designation letter and is eligible for technical preservation advice.

There are currently 25 National Historic Places in Wyoming and 26 in Montana, according to the National Park Service.

<http://www.wxyz.com/news/region/detroit/mcgregor-memorial-conference-center-at-wayne-state-university-named-national-historic-landmark>

McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State University named Nat

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INTERIOR:**5 new landmarks show 'vision of our great architects' -- Jewell**

Scott Streater, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Structures designed by renowned 20th-century architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Minoru Yamasaki are among five new sites that have been added to the nation's growing list of national historic landmarks.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis today announced the additions, most of which focus on achievements in architectural design, including the "Samara" house in Indiana that was designed by Wright as a model for affordable housing, according to an Interior Department description.

The new landmarks also include a 19th-century Massachusetts aqueduct, a historic resort hotel inside Yellowstone National Park, a California covered bridge and a conference center at Wayne State University in Michigan. That center is one of the first designs by Yamasaki to demonstrate his "own distinct vision of Modernism, later considered part of the stylistic trend 'New Formalism,'" according to Interior.

"These sites join more than 2,500 other landmarks that help tell America's story," Jewell said today in a statement. "From the remarkable strides made in engineering during the 19th century to the vision of our great architects, they are an important part of the tapestry of our nation's heritage."

The National Historic Landmarks Program, established in 1935 and administered by NPS on behalf of the Interior secretary, is designed to recognize places that possess "exceptional value and quality" in interpreting the nation's history and heritage.

The landmarks announced today advance recent efforts by the Park Service to recognize sites that tell a "more complete story" of the nation's heritage, including locations of importance to the civil rights struggle of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans (*Greenwire*, May 29, 2014).

This concept has extended to President Obama's recent designation of two new national monuments, as well.

The president in February designated the Pullman National Monument in Chicago, which was the center of a violent labor strike that ultimately led to America's labor movement. At the same time, he also designated the Honolulu National Monument in Hawaii, which protects the site of a Japanese-American internment camp that held as many as 400 civilian internees during World War II (*E&ENews PM*, Feb. 19).

"National historic landmarks preserve some of our nation's most remarkable places and demonstrate the power of partnerships between the National Park Service and historic property owners," Jarvis said in a statement. "These new landmarks offer opportunities for more Americans to make personal connections with our nation's cultural and historical heritage and have the potential to drive tourism and boost local economies."

The five landmarks added today:

- Samara (John E. and Catherine E. Christian House), West Lafayette, Ind.: Completed in 1956, it contains "more than 40 Wrightian design elements," including "flat roofs, and open-plan public spaces conducive to simple living for average middle-class families," according to a site description by Interior.
- Lake Hotel, Yellowstone National Park, Teton County, Wyo.: Originally built in 1891, it was "entirely reconceived" in the early 20th century by architect Robert Reamer as "a grand resort hotel displaying the Colonial Revival style as adapted to the context of a national park in the western United States," Interior says.
- California Powder Works Bridge, Santa Cruz County, Calif.: Built in 1872, the covered bridge is "one of the most outstanding surviving examples of a Smith Truss, a nationally significant timber truss type developed and patented in 1867 by Robert W. Smith in Toledo, Ohio," according to Interior.
- McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Detroit: Completed in 1958, the building "represents a key turning point in Yamasaki's career as he moved away from International Style orthodoxy into his own distinct vision of Modernism," Interior says.
- Brookline Reservoir of the Cochituate Aqueduct, Brookline, Mass.: The reservoir, built in 1848, "represents one of the most publicly-accessible and architecturally-distinguished components of early 19th-century public water supply technology," Interior says.

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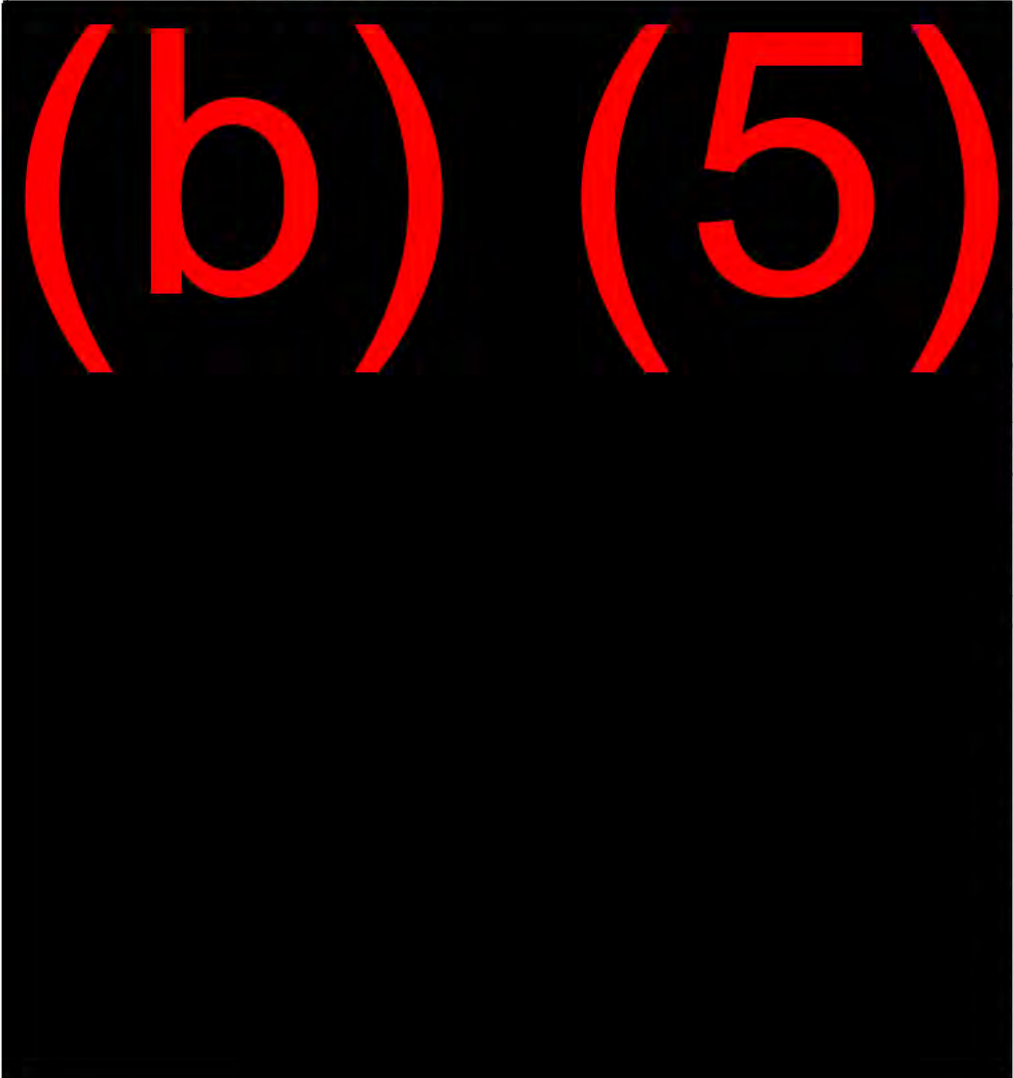
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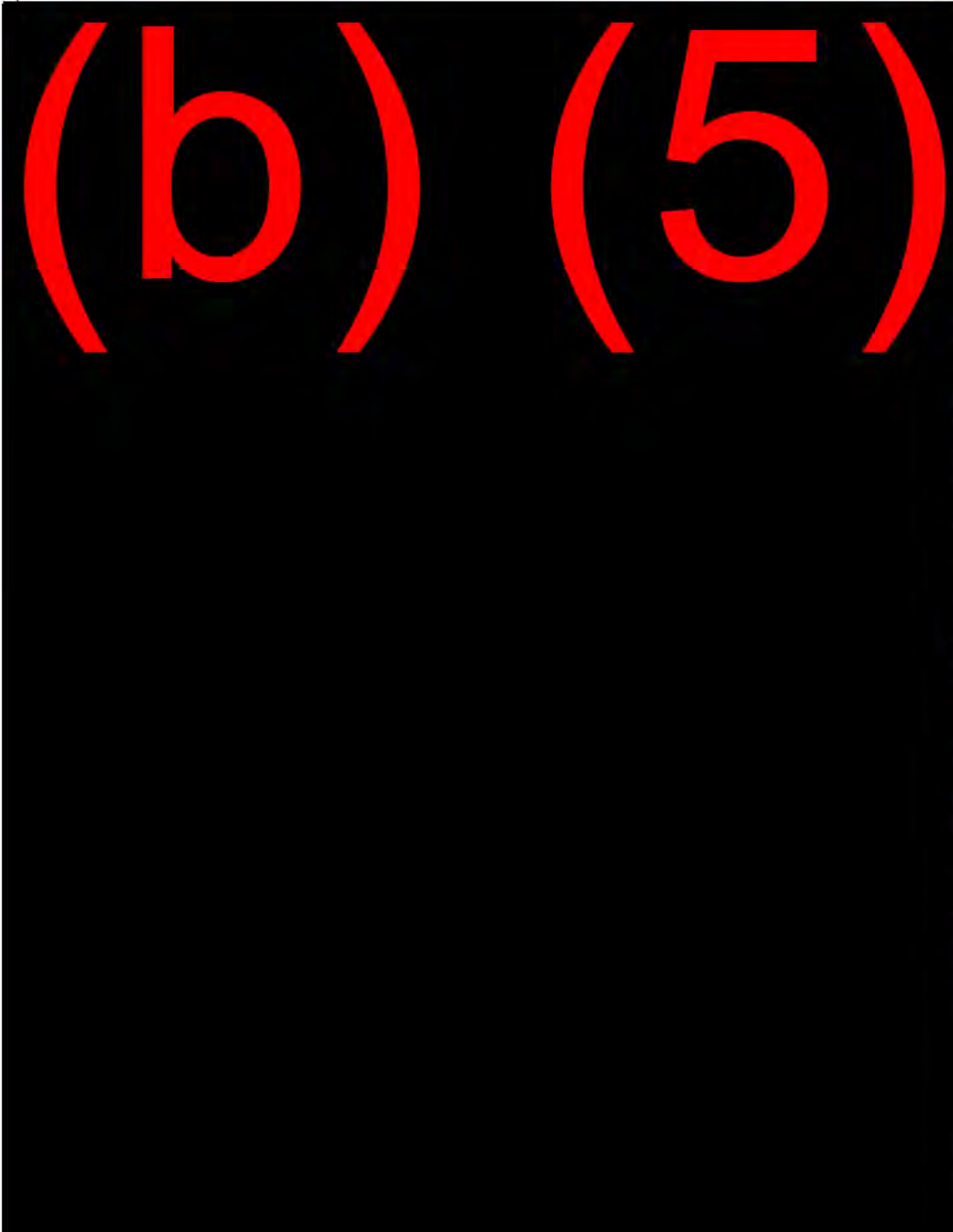
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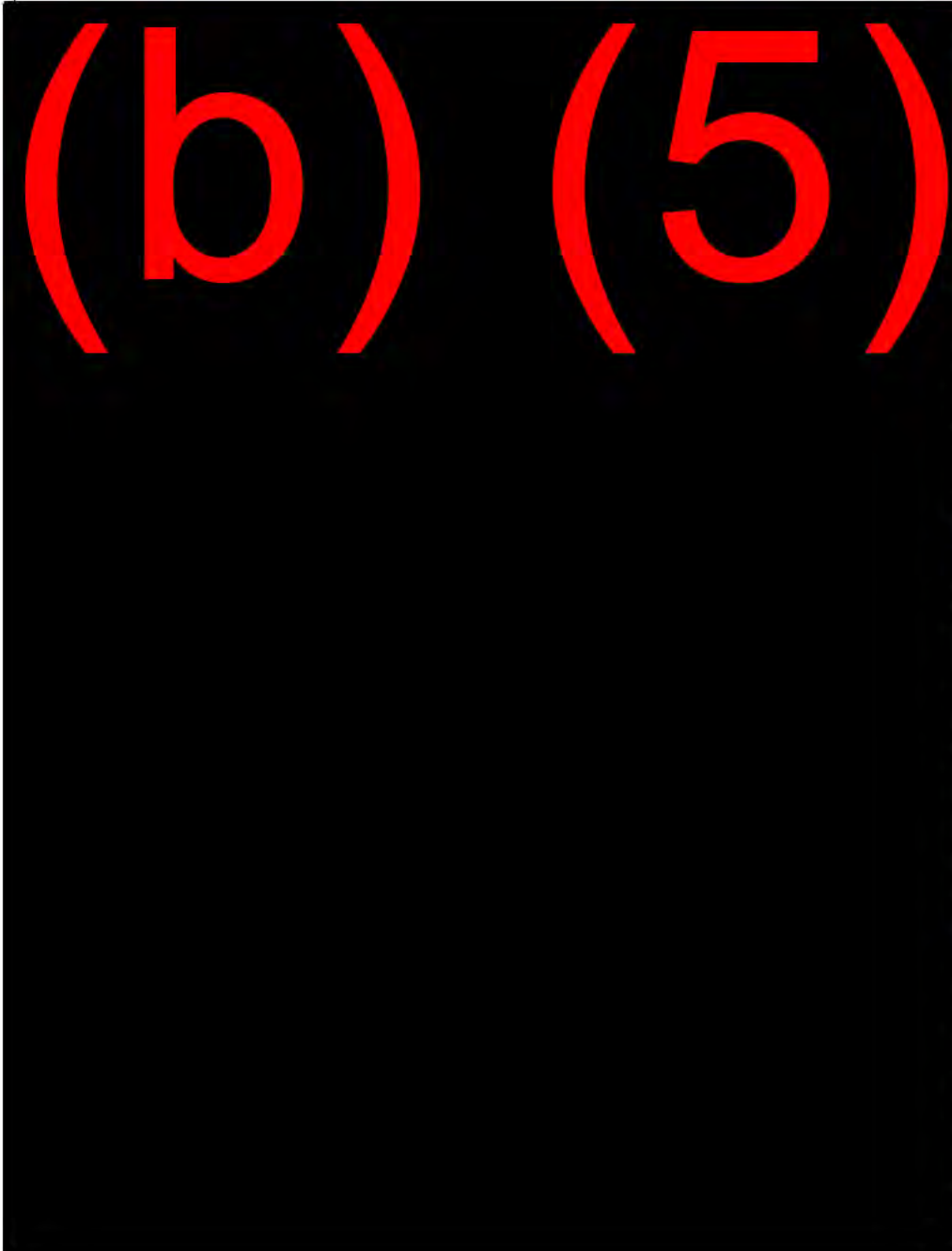
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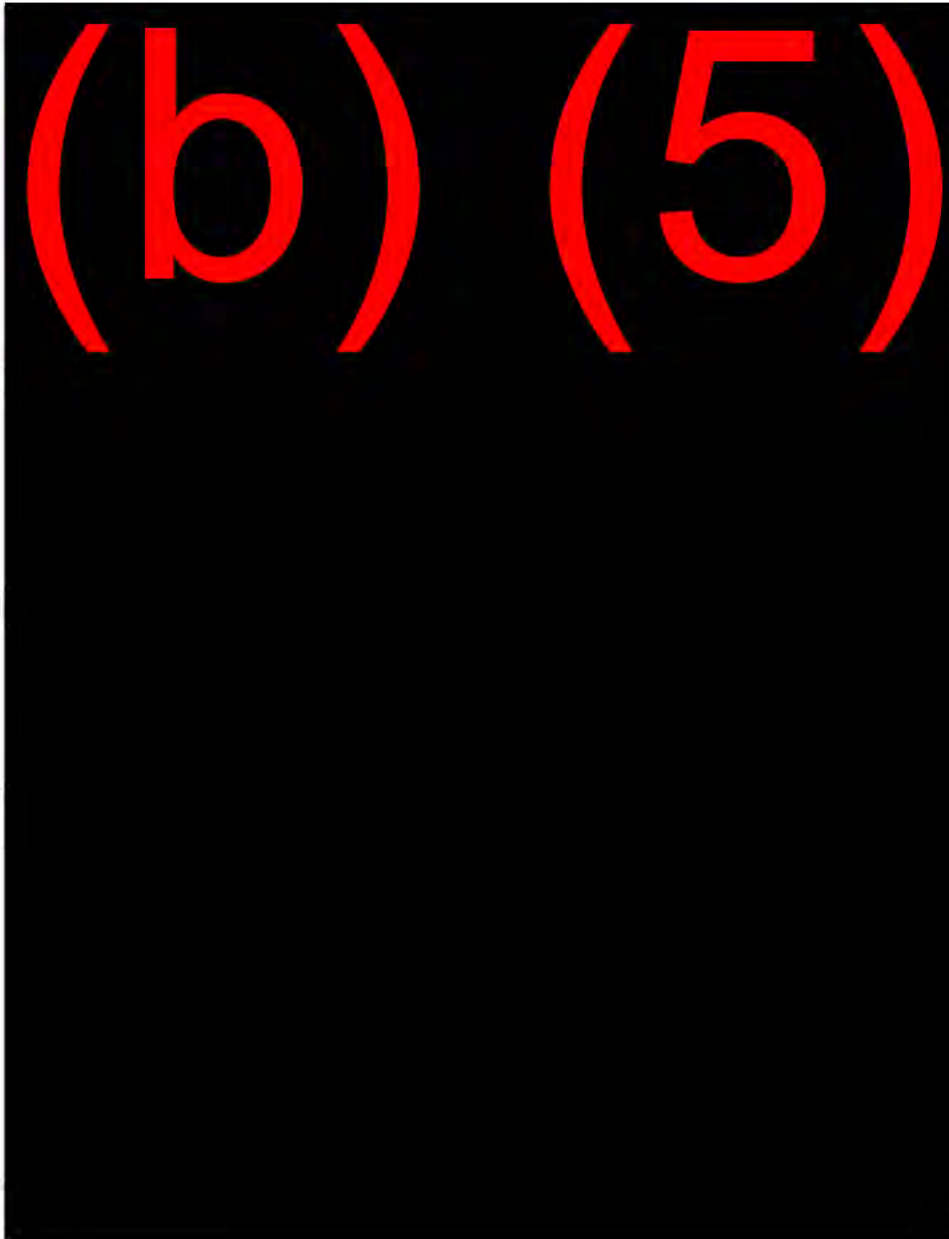
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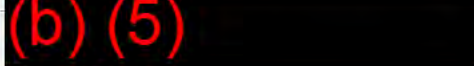
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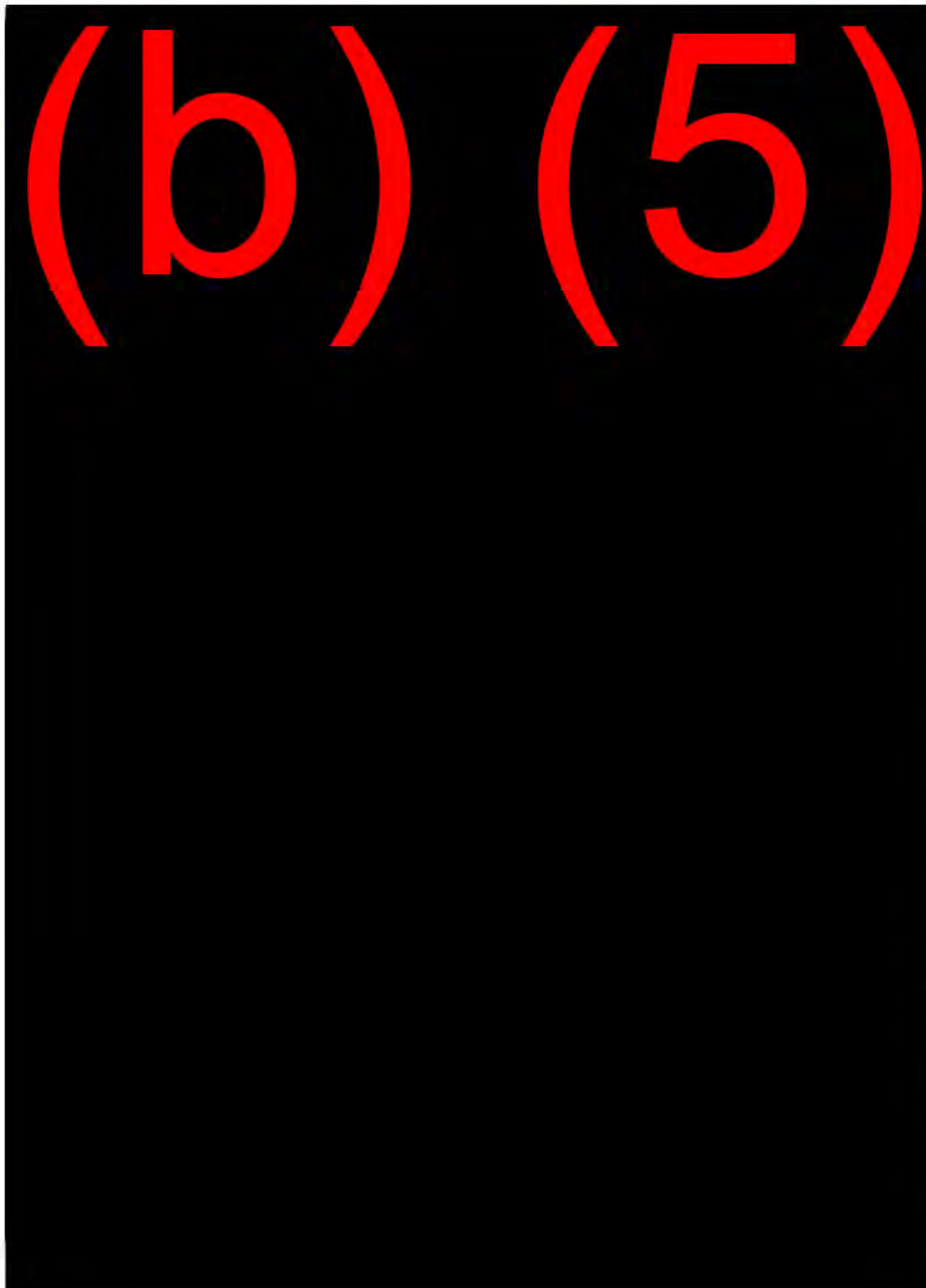


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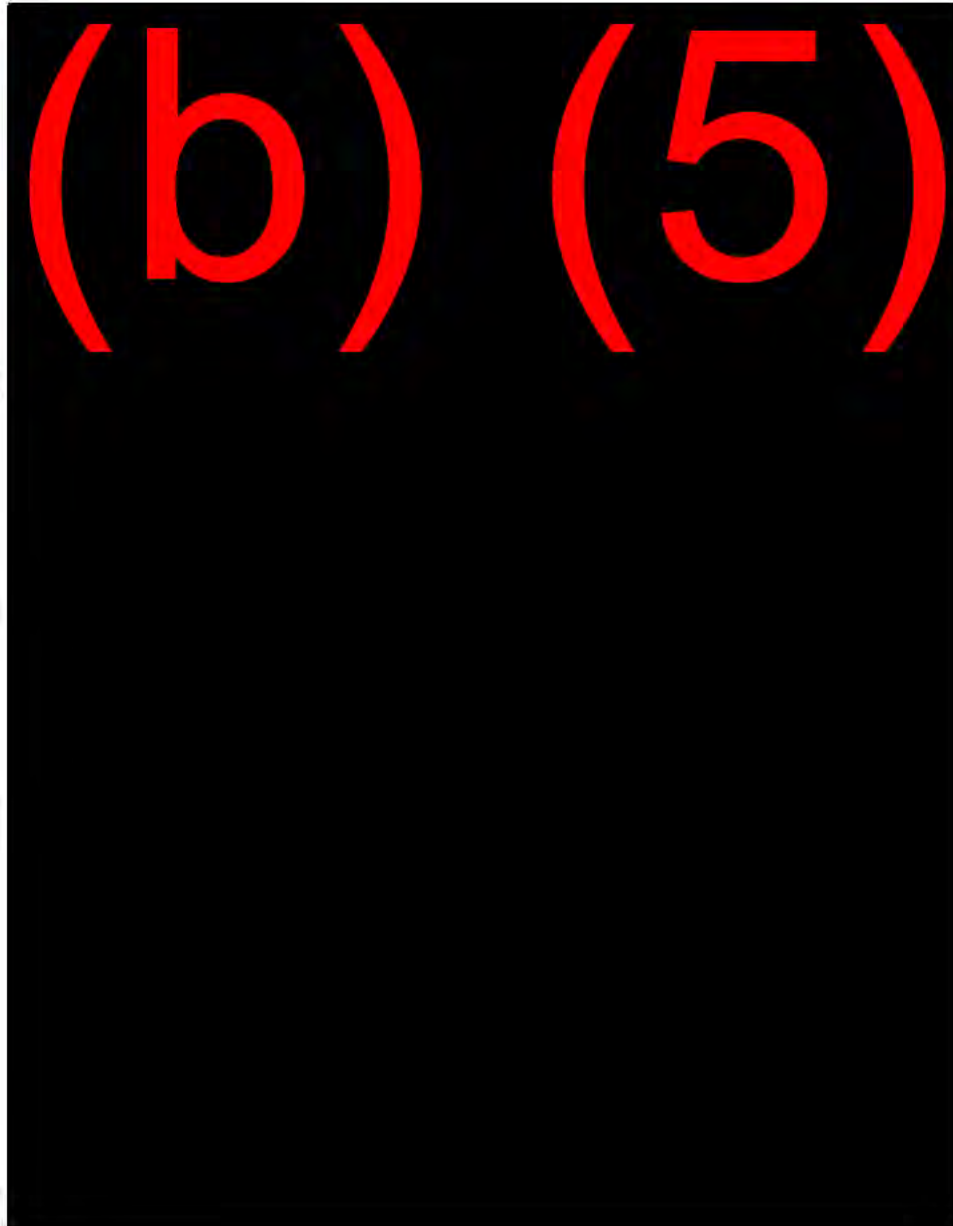
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov
News Release

April 15, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Paul Loether (NPS), paul_loether@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell, Director Jarvis Announce Five New National Historic Landmarks Highlighting America's Diverse Heritage

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis today announced the designation of five new national historic landmarks, ranging from a 19th century reservoir in Massachusetts to a home in Indiana designed by Frank Lloyd Wright to provide affordable housing.

The new landmarks also include a historic railroad bridge in California, a hotel in Yellowstone National Park, and a conference center in Detroit designed by renowned architect Minoru Yamasaki.

“These sites join more than 2,500 other landmarks that help tell America’s story,” said Secretary Jewell. “From the remarkable strides made in engineering during the 19th century to the vision of our great architects, they are an important part of the tapestry of our nation’s heritage.”

“National historic landmarks preserve some of our nation’s most remarkable places and demonstrate the power of partnerships between the National Park Service and historic property owners,” said Director Jarvis. “These new landmarks offer opportunities for more Americans to make personal connections with our nation’s cultural and historical heritage and have the potential to drive tourism and boost local economies.”

[National Historic Landmarks](#) recognize places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The six new landmarks are:

Samara (John E. and Catherine E. Christian House), West Lafayette, Indiana
Completed in 1956, Samara is an outstanding and mature example of a Usonian house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright during his late period (1941-59). It is a remarkably complete Usonian design, incorporating more than 40 Wrightian design elements, including character-defining Usonian features such as modular design, indoor-outdoor

connections, slab floor construction, flat roofs, and open-plan public spaces conducive to simple living for average middle-class families.

Lake Hotel, Yellowstone National Park, Teton County, Wyoming

Initially constructed in 1891, the Lake Hotel was entirely reconceived in the first decades of the 20th century as a grand resort hotel displaying the Colonial Revival style as adapted to the context of a national park in the western United States. Located on the north shore of Yellowstone Lake, the hotel expansion and redesign was spearheaded by noted architect Robert C. Reamer.

California Powder Works Bridge, Santa Cruz County, California

Constructed in 1872, this covered bridge is one of the most outstanding surviving examples of a Smith Truss, a nationally significant timber truss type developed and patented in 1867 by Robert W. Smith in Toledo, Ohio. This truss type features diagonal truss web members that resulted in a light, strong, and efficient design whose components could be mass-produced at a factory and shipped to distant sites.

McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Detroit, Michigan

The McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State University, completed in 1958, is a benchmark work in the career of Japanese-American Minoru Yamasaki, one of the 20th century's most important Modern architects. The building's design represents a key turning point in Yamasaki's career as he moved away from International Style orthodoxy into his own distinct vision of Modernism, later considered part of the stylistic trend "New Formalism."

Brookline Reservoir of the Cochituate Aqueduct, Brookline, Massachusetts

Constructed in 1848, the Brookline Reservoir represents one of the most publicly-accessible and architecturally-distinguished components of early 19th-century public water supply technology. Its Principal Gatehouse is also important for the technical development of wrought iron as a structural and building envelope material in architecture and the cultural acceptance of iron technology in public architecture.

Additional information can be [found here](#).

[Click here](#) for pictures of the designated properties.

Established in 1935, the [National Historic Landmarks Program](#) is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The agency works with preservation officials, private property owners, and other partners interested in nominating properties for National Historic Landmark designation. Completed nominations are reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, which makes recommendations for designation to the Secretary of the Interior. If selected, property ownership remains the same, but each site receives a designation letter and is eligible for technical preservation advice.

The National Historic Landmarks Program is one of more than a dozen programs administered by the National Park Service that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve our nation's shared history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

###



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, January 21, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Thu, Jan 21, 2016 at 7:02 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Oregon Gov. Brown Calls On Feds To End Militia Occupation Standoff.
- + Republicans To Target Coal Moratorium During Floor Debate.
- + White House To Crack Down On Methane Leaks At Gas Wells.
- + Senate Panel Approves Sportsmen's Bill.
- + Senate Republicans Try To Override Veto Of Resolution To Block Clean Water Rule.
- + Rep. Bishop Releases Utah Public Lands Bill.
- + Draft Mine Cleanup Bill Released.
- + NASA, NOAA: 2015 Was Hottest Year On Record.
- + Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Prepares For Africa Trip.
- + Additional Coverage: Isleta Pueblo Regains Ancestral Land.
- + Additional Coverage: \$40 Million In Funding Announced For Nevada Projects.
- + Pennsylvania Advocate Calls For Permanent LWCF Reauthorization.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + BIA Closes Settlement On Tribal Contracts Case.
- + Land Near Wounded Knee May Be Used For Native American Holocaust Museum.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + New Plan Proposed For Management Of Glen Canyon Dam.
- + Draft Plan For Shasta Dam Fish Passage Evaluation Released.
- + Cofferdam Leak At Folsom Lake Spillway Project Stabilized.
- + PacifiCorp Pursues Dam Removal After Collapse Of Klamath Agreement.
- + NRDC Analysts Urges California Not To Ease Up On Water Conservation.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Firm Asks Judge To Block Cancellation Of Federal Energy Lease.
- + Public Comment Period Closes On Proposed Mining Withdrawal.
- + Environmental Assessment For Colowyo Coal Proposal Released.
- + Conservation Groups Sue For Stream Rule Documents.
- + Idaho Has Estimated 5,000 Abandoned Mines.
- + Sandridge Agrees To Shut Down Seven Oklahoma Wells Following Earthquakes.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + North Carolina Town 100th Municipality To Oppose Offshore Drilling.
- + Additional Coverage: GAO Warns About Costs From Oil, Gas Decommissioning.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + Appeals Court Hears Arguments In Utah Roads Case.
- + BLM Seeking Input On Wild Horse Off-range Pasture.
- + Crew Finds Dinosaur Footprint In Montana.
- + Additional Coverage: Mohave County Looks For Burro Solution.
- + BLM Urged To Manage Wild Horses With Fertility Control Vaccine.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Mead, Ashe: "Angry Talk Won't Solve Wolf, Griz Issues."
- + FWS Proposes Weakening Protections For Some Parakeets.
- + Aerial Operations For Mexican Wolf Population Survey Begins.
- + Western Governors' Association Workshop Discusses Species Protection Ideas.
- + Closing Of Power Plants Might Impact Manatees.
- + New York Reports Success In Battling Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey.
- + Analysis Compares Greater Sage Grouse Listing Decision To Other Upland Game Birds.
- + Alaska Urged To Rethink Management Of Game Animals.

National Park Service:

- + High Court Hears Arguments In Hoverboard Case.
- + Pullman National Monument Prepares For First Anniversary.
- + NPS Overseeing Repairs On Routes In DC Area.
- + NPS Set To Remove Asphalt At Gulf Islands National Seashore.
- + Group Raises Money To Study Fletcher's Cove.
- + Coyote Tracked By Researchers Drowns In Los Angeles Park.
- + Feature Examines Last Days Of Morgan Horse Ranch.
- + Additional Coverage: Yosemite National Park Entangled In Trademark Dispute Over Landmark Names.
- + Additional Coverage: Report Details History Of Sexual Harassment At Grand Canyon.

US Geological Survey:

- + Kimball Sworn In As USGS Director.
- + USGS report: Invasive Amphibian Fungus Could Threaten Salamander Populations.
- + Mesilla Basin Microgravity Survey To Measure Aquifer Changes.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Obama Highlights Auto Industry's Resurgence, Briefly Addresses Flint Crisis.
- + Obama Considering Executive Action On Campaign Finance.
- + Clinton Camp Accuses Intelligence IG, GOP Of "Coordinated Leak" On Emails.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

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:

OREGON GOV. BROWN CALLS ON FEDS TO END MILITIA OCCUPATION STANDOFF. The [AP](#) (1/20, Hansen Terrence Petty |, Ap, 7.78M) reports that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown "expressed frustration with federal authorities' handling of the continuing occupation of a national wildlife refuge in southeastern Oregon by an armed group and said it's time to end it." She said, "The residents of Harney County have been overlooked and underserved by federal officials' response thus far. I have conveyed these very grave concerns directly to our

leaders at the highest levels of our government: the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House.” According to the article, “exasperated by a tense situation that has caused fear among local residents since it began Jan. 2, Brown said federal officials ‘must move quickly to end the occupation and hold all of the wrongdoers accountable.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/21, Wang, 7.78M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/20, 263K), [TIME](#) (1/20, 19.1M), and the [Huffington Post](#) (1/20, 251K).

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Workers Post Statement On Facebook. The [Washington Times](#) (1/20, Chasmar, 283K) reports that “employees of the Oregon refuge that was taken over this month by armed anti-government protesters have broken their silence on the occupation in an open letter to the local community.” In a Facebook post Wednesday, staff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge “explained that they have refrained from commenting on the occupation so as not to ‘inflamm[e] an already heated situation,’ but felt they owed it to the community to finally take a position.” Refuge staff wrote that “they hope to return to work soon, and thanked the community for its support.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (1/20, 769K).

Oregon Cattlemen, BLM In Talks To Restore Jailed Ranchers’ Grazing Rights. The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “cattlemen in southeast Oregon are quietly negotiating with the Bureau of Land Management to restore grazing privileges to a pair of ranchers serving five-year prison sentences for setting fires on federal lands.” The negotiations are being held “as armed militants led by Ammon Bundy continue to occupy the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to protest the imprisonment of Dwight and Steven Hammond and the federal government’s ownership of lands in the West.”

Legal Experts Skeptical Of Oregon Militants’ Land Claims. The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “it’s becoming clear the armed occupants don’t have a legal leg to stand on.” According to legal experts, “there appears to be virtually nothing in any law, the Constitution or Supreme Court jurisprudence that supports Bundy’s constitutional claims, legal experts said.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/20, 7.78M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (1/20, Schaub, 3.6M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/20, 496K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, Petty, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/20, 2.15M), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (1/20, 10K), the [Oregonian](#) (1/20, 769K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (1/20, 73K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (1/21, 209K), the [Indianapolis \(IN\) Star](#) (1/20, 570K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (1/20, 218K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/20, Levin, 3.48M), and [Gawker](#) (1/20, 1.76M).

REPUBLICANS TO TARGET COAL MORATORIUM DURING FLOOR DEBATE. [E&E Publishing](#) (1/20, 705) reports that Sen. John Barrasso said Wednesday that “Republicans plan to offer amendments during the upcoming energy floor debate to stymie the Obama administration’s moratorium on new coal leasing on federal lands.”

Meanwhile, [The Atlantic](#) (1/20, 2.66M) reports that “analysts say the coal market is generally so bad that the Obama rule change can’t make things any worse, at least in the short term.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Daily](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication).

NRDC President Supports Coal Moratorium. In an op-ed for the [Seattle Times](#) (1/20, 1.17M), Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, writes that “when he named Seattle resident Sally Jewell to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior three years ago, President Obama cited her expertise on climate, energy and stewardship of our public lands. All three came together Friday when Jewell announced a badly needed overhaul of the program through which we make millions of acres of federal lands available for lease to private coal companies.” Suh argues that “at a time when we’re grappling with the growing dangers of climate change, the last thing we should be doing is using taxpayer money to encourage the production of a dirty fossil fuel that is warming the planet and imperiling our future.”

WTimes: Coal Lease Moratorium Good For Green “Crony Capitalists.” The [Washington Times](#) (1/20, 283K) editorializes that President Obama’s three-year moratorium on most new coal leases on federal land “would gradually reduce production of America’s most plentiful and affordable fuels.” Sen. John Barrasso said, “There seems to be no limit to the number of job-crushing regulations, executive orders and insults Secretary Jewell and President Obama will throw at America’s middle class.” US efforts are expected to reduce global warming

only 0.3°F by 2100, and will “cripple the fossil fuel industry and enable crony capitalists to cash in on the green revolution.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (1/20, 24K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (1/20, 44K), the [Douglas \(WY\) Budget](#) (1/20, 80), [The East Oregonian](#) (1/20, 24K), [Platts](#) (1/20, 1K), the [Pacific Standard](#) (1/20, 3K), [Newsweek](#) (1/29, 164K), the [Daily Caller](#) (1/20, Linder, 366K), [SteelGuru](#) (1/20, 105), [Public News Service](#) (1/21, 306), and [Yahoo! News](#) (1/21, Eggert, 6.43M).

WHITE HOUSE TO CRACK DOWN ON METHANE LEAKS AT GAS WELLS. [Bloomberg News](#) (1/20, Dlouhy, 3.4M) reports that the natural gas spill in October at the Aliso Canyon storage field in southern California is “giving momentum to the Obama administration’s plan to clamp down on methane emissions from oil and natural gas wells.” A proposal from the Interior Department concerning methane leaks at wells on federal and tribal lands is expected to be released in coming days, “with the goal of plugging [unintentional leaks] and stopping energy companies from intentionally flaring or venting the gas.” The proposal “is expected to specify when energy companies can use natural gas captured from wells on public land to power equipment at the site. The agency also may dictate when – and how much – energy companies should pay in royalties for natural gas that’s vented or flared.”

Also providing coverage is [Politico](#) (1/20, 1.19M).

Wasting Of Natural Gas Resources On Tribal Lands Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (1/20, 1K), Joletta Bird Bear raises concerns about the “more than \$76 million worth of natural gas” that is “flared, vented or leaked on tribal and federal lands...in North Dakota” each year. Bear says since “oil and gas companies are short-term renters of tribal lands,” she argues that “we need to change that dynamic and get them to think about preserving our lands and to be true long-term stewards of our lands.” Bear concludes that “the Three Affiliated Tribes, the BLM, the BIA, and the oil and gas industry should all work together to stop wasting natural gas resources on our tribal lands.”

SENATE PANEL APPROVES SPORTSMEN’S BILL. [E&E Publishing](#) (1/20, 705) reports that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee “approved a bipartisan bill today aimed at increasing access to public lands but carrying a number of contentious amendments on species protection, pesticide permitting and wildlife refuge management.” According to the article, “in a 12-8 vote, the panel passed a substitute amendment to S. 659, making only technical fixes.” The legislation “contains provisions from the broader ‘Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2015’ that are within the Environment Committee’s jurisdiction.”

[E&E Daily](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. John Barrasso planned “to offer an amendment to a sportsmen’s package that would remove gray wolves in Wyoming from listing under the Endangered Species Act.”

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (1/21, 42K) reports that Sen. Dan Sullivan “acted Wednesday to head off a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service move to ban some types of Alaska-legal bear, wolf and coyote hunts on federal wildlife refuges in the state.” An amendment to the Sullivan’s “Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2015” would “specifically prohibit the Fish and Wildlife Service from implementing hunting restrictions the agency introduced earlier this month.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (1/20).

SENATE REPUBLICANS TRY TO OVERRIDE VETO OF RESOLUTION TO BLOCK CLEAN WATER RULE. [E&E Publishing](#) (1/20, 705) reports that the Senate will “seek to override President Obama’s veto of a resolution to block his administration’s contentious Clean Water Act jurisdiction rule tomorrow morning.” S.J. Res. 22 would “prevent U.S. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers from implementing the so-called Clean Water Rule, better known as the Waters of the U.S. rule or WOTUS.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Daily](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication), the [Grand Island \(NE\) Independent](#) (1/21, 54K), and the [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (1/20, 1K).

REP. BISHOP RELEASES UTAH PUBLIC LANDS BILL. The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop on Wednesday “released a long-awaited draft bill for 18 million acres of public lands in eastern Utah, drawing praise from state and energy industry officials but strong opposition from conservation groups and skepticism from a top House Democrat.” Kathleen Sgamma, vice president for government and public affairs at the Western Energy Alliance, said “the legislation is an

'important milestone' in a 'bottom-up' approach to settle the area's decades of conflicts over public lands." However, "key national conservation groups including the Wilderness Society, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Grand Canyon Trust, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club today blasted the bill, arguing it falls short of protections needed for the 'world-renowned redrock scenery of the national public lands in Utah.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Daily](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/20, 339K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/20, 339K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/20, 476K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, Price, 283K), the [Oklahoman](#) (1/20, 470K), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (1/20, 155K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (1/20, 22K), the [National Parks Traveler](#) (1/20, 989), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (1/20, 464K), and [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (1/20, 148K).

Salt Lake Tribune: Lands Bill Still A Work In Progress. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/21, 339K) says that "Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz are to be commended for their long effort to bring forth the most comprehensive public lands bill ever crafted for Utah, but if they think they're done now, they probably won't succeed." The editorial details several of the proposals contained in the bill that will impact current and future Federal lands in the state. The editorial explains that "the most uncertainty can be found in the bill's unabashed encouragement of oil and gas development, which today looks more like a dream than a strategy," thanks to low oil prices and fears of long-term environmental degradation. The Tribune says that the bill's sponsors "have invested years, but now it is the time for the rest of Congress to study it and act in the best interests of all Americans, who are the owners of this land."

DRAFT MINE CLEANUP BILL RELEASED. [E&E Daily](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "a bipartisan group of Colorado lawmakers released draft legislation yesterday to encourage mining companies, governments and other groups to help clean up thousands of abandoned mines and improve water quality in and around them." According to the article, "the discussion draft of the 'Good Samaritan Cleanup of Orphan Mines Act' comes from Colorado Sens. Cory Gardner (R) and Michael Bennet (D) and Rep. Scott Tipton (R-Colo.)." The legislation would "allow state, local governments or groups to apply for U.S. EPA permits for helping clean up mine sites long abandoned by unknown or defunct individuals and companies."

NASA, NOAA: 2015 WAS HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD. In what the [Washington Post](#) (1/20, A1, Mooney, Warrick, 7.78M) calls "yet another sign that the planet is heating up," NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Wednesday that 2015 "shattered 2014's record to become the hottest year since reliable record-keeping began." According to NASA, "2015 was officially 0.23 degrees Fahrenheit (0.13 degrees Celsius) hotter than 2014." NOAA "showed slightly greater warming, of about 0.29 degrees Fahrenheit (0.16 degrees C) hotter than 2014." The Post says the new numbers "could fuel debate over climate change in an election year in which the two main political parties remain divided over what to do about global warming and, indeed, whether it exists."

The [New York Times](#) (1/20, Gillis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says that while it will "take a few more years to know for certain," the "back-to-back records of 2014 and 2015 may have put the world back onto a trajectory of rapid global warming, after a period of relatively slow warming dating to the last powerful El Niño, in 1998." [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/20, story 11, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) said 15 of the 16 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001. [ABC World News](#) (1/20, story 10, 0:10, Muir, 5.84M) also briefly reported the story.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL PREPARES FOR AFRICA TRIP. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's press briefing ahead of her upcoming trip to Gabon, Kenya and South Africa was provided by the [Nigeria Teller](#) (1/21) and the [Standard Digital](#) (1/21, 4K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ISLETA PUEBLO REGAINS ANCESTRAL LAND. Additional coverage of the 90,000 acres of ancestral land returned to the Isleta Pueblo was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (1/20, 47K) and the [Valencia County \(NM\) News-Bulletin](#) (1/20, 20K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: \$40 MILLION IN FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR NEVADA PROJECTS. Additional coverage of the \$40 million in funding announced for projects around Nevada was provided by the [South Tahoe \(CA\) Now](#) (1/20).

PENNSYLVANIA ADVOCATE CALLS FOR PERMANENT LWCF REAUTHORIZATION. Ed Perry, the Pennsylvania outreach coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation Climate Change Campaign, writes at the [Erie \(PA\) Reader](#) (1/20) that the omnibus appropriations bill passed in December included a three-year

reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund “with \$450 million set aside for conservation and recreation projects.” However, Perry points out, “Congress also lifted the oil export ban, which could potentially lead to the loss of over a million acres of wildlife habitat to meet the new demand for oil production.” He says that “this makes the need to permanently reauthorize and fully fund LWCF at its \$900 million funding level even more important.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA CLOSES SETTLEMENT ON TRIBAL CONTRACTS CASE. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (1/20, 2K) reports that “the enormous \$940 million class-action lawsuit against the BIA on behalf of tribes cleared the last court hurdle today in New Mexico.” According to the article, “the case stems from decades of short-funding tribal contracts.” The article notes that “the settlement is similar to one reached with the Indian Health Service last year, that also found tribes had agreed to contract amounts for tribal services but were then shorted the funds, or in some cases, not awarded any money at all for the signed contracts with the federal government.”

LAND NEAR WOUNDED KNEE MAY BE USED FOR NATIVE AMERICAN HOLOCAUST MUSEUM. [Think Progress](#) (1/20, Townes, 293K) reports that 125 “years after hundreds of men, women, and children were executed at Wounded Knee,” Tim Giago, “a member of the Lakota tribe is getting ready to buy the adjacent land, with the intention of turning it into a Native American holocaust museum.” Think Progress explains that Giago recently signed an agreement to purchase the land for \$3.9 million. Think Progress also points out that “tribes across the country are in the process of procuring land that was divided over generations and undermined their integrity.” The report explains that “the Department of the Interior launched a massive land buy-back program for tribes across the country” and that, “over the span of 10 years, the department will use \$1.9 billion to purchase some of the fractioned land from willing sellers, consolidate it, and turn it into tribal trusts.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

NEW PLAN PROPOSED FOR MANAGEMENT OF GLEN CANYON DAM. [KNAU-FM Flagstaff, AZ](#) (1/20, 1K) reports that “federal officials have proposed a sweeping new plan to manage Glen Canyon Dam for the next two decades.” According to the article, “they want to be more proactive in their efforts to restore fish and animal habitat as well as beaches that have degraded in the Grand Canyon since the dam became operational in the 1960s.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (1/20, 46K).

DRAFT PLAN FOR SHASTA DAM FISH PASSAGE EVALUATION RELEASED. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (1/20, 578) reports that the BOR, National Marine Fisheries Service and “other partnering agencies have released a draft of the Pilot Implementation Plan for the Shasta Dam Fish Passage Evaluation for public review.” The plan “provides a general overview of winter-run Chinook Salmon reintroduction to historical habitats in the Study Area, including the recovery priorities for salmon and viable salmonid populations, and the benefits, opportunities and constraints associated with the reintroduction.”

COFFERDAM LEAK AT FOLSOM LAKE SPILLWAY PROJECT STABILIZED. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/20, 515K) reports that “a temporary cofferdam that kept crews and construction areas dry during the construction of a new spillway at Folsom Dam began leaking Wednesday, forcing crews to evacuate.” Late Wednesday afternoon, Tyler Stalker, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said “workers had stabilized the cofferdam and would have all their equipment moved out Wednesday night.” According to the article, “the work using the cofferdam was to be completed by Feb. 8 and can be done under wet conditions that don’t require the cofferdam.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KCRA-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (1/20, 227K).

PACIFICORP PURSUES DAM REMOVAL AFTER COLLAPSE OF KLAMATH AGREEMENT. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (1/20, 10K) reports that PacifiCorp is “now trying to reach a quick deal with federal and state regulators to remove four aged dams on the Klamath River.” According to the article, “the aggressive action by the big western utility follows the failure of Congress over the last four years to pass sweeping legislation aimed at ending the water wars in the Klamath Basin that straddles the states of Oregon and California.” PacifiCorp is “talking with officials from Oregon, California and the federal government on modifications to one of the key pacts – the Klamath Hydropower Settlement Agreement – aimed at ending the pitched fights over the river’s future.”

NRDC ANALYSTS URGES CALIFORNIA NOT TO EASE UP ON WATER CONSERVATION. Tracy Quinn, a senior water policy analyst at the Natural Resources Defense Council office in Santa Monica, writes at the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/21, 515K) that, in response to California's drought, "the Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's 2016 Drought Contingency Plan, released Friday, painted a grim picture, but that same day, the State Water Resources Control Board staff proposed to relax emergency drought regulations." She says that the Board is responding to pressure from groups such as the Association for California Water Agencies that say "that regions that spent their money on expensive new local supplies such as desalination should be allowed to waste more water from both local and non-local sources than other parts of the state." However, Quinn argues that "our best strategy is to pursue more cost-effective conservation opportunities before considering expensive new local projects such as desalination."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

FIRM ASKS JUDGE TO BLOCK CANCELLATION OF FEDERAL ENERGY LEASE. The AP (1/20) reports that Louisiana-based Solenex LLC has asked a Federal judge to block a Interior Department's plan to cancel a "long-stalled federal energy lease on land considered sacred to American Indians" in Montana's Glacier National Park the agency says was improperly issued in 1982. Solenex sued the government in 2013 over repeated delays.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, 283K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (1/20, 118K), [Law360](#) (1/20, 30K), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (1/20, 1K).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES ON PROPOSED MINING WITHDRAWAL. The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "conservation groups and the mining industry want significant changes to the Obama administration's proposal to remove 10 million acres of federal lands within prime greater sage grouse habitat from new mining claims." According to the article, "their comments are among more than 5,000 submitted to the Bureau of Land Management by last Friday's deadline regarding what would be the largest-ever federal mining withdrawal covering BLM and Forest Service lands in six states." The article notes that "the proposed withdrawals, which target the most critical sage grouse habitat in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming, were recommended in the sweeping federal sage grouse plans finalized last September that were instrumental in persuading the Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the greater sage grouse for protection under the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, Brown, 283K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/20, 81K), the [St. Joseph \(MO\) News-Press](#) (1/20, 12K), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (1/20, 200K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (1/20, 76K), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (1/20, 38K), [Montana Public Radio](#) (1/20), and [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (1/20, 6K).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR COLOWYO COAL PROPOSAL RELEASED. The AP (1/20, 2.15M) reports that "federal regulators have given the initial go-ahead to more coal extraction at a western Colorado site under a plan that calls for the mining company to donate 4,500 acres for the greater sage grouse." On Wednesday, the BLM and the OSMRE "released their assessment of the environmental impact of a proposal by Colowyo Coal to continue working reserves in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties for which the first BLM leases were made in 1982." The agencies concluded "the project would have no significant impact."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, Bryson, 283K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (1/20, 150K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (1/20, 57K).

CONSERVATION GROUPS SUE FOR STREAM RULE DOCUMENTS. The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "conservative advocacy groups sued the Obama administration yesterday for internal communications regarding how the Interior Department developed a proposal to increase protections for streams near coal mines." The Energy & Environment Legal Institute and Free Market Environmental Law Clinic are "seeking all email and text message correspondence during certain time periods about the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's stream protection rule."

IDAHO HAS ESTIMATED 5,000 ABANDONED MINES. The [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (1/20, Murri, 103K) reports that there are an estimated 5,000 abandoned mines in Idaho. According to Jonathan Oppenheimer, senior

conservation associate with the Idaho Conservation League, "The mines are from the mid-1800s through the 1950s," Oppenheimer said. "There is more work to do out there in buttoning these up than there is capacity to do it. It's a big, gaping hole—no pun intended—in the federal budget, but the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service do take it seriously." The Weekly says that "BLM's Idaho office hired Cheryl Seath in 2013 as the full-time Abandoned Mine Lands Hazardous Materials coordinator." The Weekly details Seath's work as well as the work done by her counterparts in other states.

SANDRIDGE AGREES TO SHUT DOWN SEVEN OKLAHOMA WELLS FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKES.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Ailworth, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports Sandridge Energy agreed to shut down three wells located near sites of recent earthquakes, and to give five wells, one of which was previously unused, to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for research. Sandridge also said it would reduce wastewater injections into its wells in the area. The [AP](#) (1/21) paraphrases Oklahoma Corporation Commission oil and gas conservation division director Tim Baker as asserting "the plan allows for quick action in seismically active areas."

Additional coverage of earthquakes was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/20, 496K) and [KWTW-TV Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (1/20, 75K).

Offshore Energy Development:

NORTH CAROLINA TOWN 100TH MUNICIPALITY TO OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [AP](#) (1/20) reports that "Kure Beach town council voted Tuesday to oppose both offshore drilling for oil, as well as seismic testing to find oil and gas." Anti-drilling group Oceana says Kure Beach is the 100th municipality on the East Coast to oppose offshore drilling or seismic testing.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GAO WARNS ABOUT COSTS FROM OIL, GAS DECOMMISSIONING.

Additional coverage that the "Government Accountability Office (GAO) is recommending that the Department of Interior take steps to improve oversight of idled and terminated offshore oil and gas lease infrastructure to better protect against billions of dollars in federal exposure to decommissioning liabilities" was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

APPEALS COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS IN UTAH ROADS CASE. The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "federal appeals court judges yesterday appeared sympathetic to a conservation group's push to sue in a state court to block Utah's claims over thousands of roads crisscrossing federal lands." According to the article, "if the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance prevails here in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, it could bring a swift end to dozens of federal lawsuits filed by the state claiming desert roads whose mileage would stretch around the Earth." The article notes that "many of the roads Utah claims are on lands SUWA wants preserved as wilderness, so the Salt Lake City-based group is trying multiple legal avenues to stop the state from gaining title to them."

BLM SEEKING INPUT ON WILD HORSE OFF-RANGE PASTURE. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/20, 476K) reports that the BLM's Richfield field office is "seeking comment on an environmental assessment analyzing a proposed wild horse off-range pasture on the Tate Farms property, located on both sides of state Route 132 near Fountain Green, totaling approximately 3,900 acres." Scott Noll, "who manages the family-owned farm, is proposing the BLM fund a contract for the pasture, which has an estimated capacity for 700 horses."

CREW FINDS DINOSAUR FOOTPRINT IN MONTANA. Mark Jacobsen, of the Bureau of Land Management, writes at the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (1/20, 200K) that "in the summer of 2013 a Saint Louis Science Center field crew found a 66-million-year-old juvenile hadrosaur track on BLM-administered land in Garfield County's Hell Creek Formation." Jacobsen explains that it's rare to find a dinosaur footprint. "The Saint Louis crew is to be commended for recognizing and preserving a resource that, in less experienced hands, would likely have been destroyed," said Doug Melton, the BLM's Miles City Field Office lead archaeologist and paleontology permit coordinator. "The Miles City Field Office sees between 10 and 15 paleontological permittees working on public lands each year," Melton said. "It is always amazing at what they report to us at the end of the year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MOHAVE COUNTY LOOKS FOR BURRO SOLUTION. Additional coverage that Mohave County officials are looking to control the local burro population was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, 283K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/20, 263K), and the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (1/20, 661K).

BLM URGED TO MANAGE WILD HORSES WITH FERTILITY CONTROL VACCINE. In an op-ed for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (1/20, 22K), Patience Dowd writes that "the recent news that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management sold a Colorado rancher nearly 1,800 wild horses that illegally went to slaughter highlights the fact that our nation is doing a poor job by these animals at the taxpayers' expense." Dowd argues that "slaughter is neither a legal nor feasible management solution," and asserts that "it's also not supported by most Americans." Dowd suggests that "a more humane and economical approach is managing horses in the field with already available fertility control vaccine: native PZP (Porcine Zona Pellucida) vaccine."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

MEAD, ASHE: "ANGRY TALK WON'T SOLVE WOLF, GRIZ ISSUES." Gov. Matt Mead (R-WY) and Dan Ashe, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, write at the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (1/20, 1K) in response to an opinion piece written by Todd Wilkinson ("Mead can't deny the bear, lobo economics") that they say "ascribes to us thinking, motivations, philosophies and disagreements on wildlife conservation that do not exist." They acknowledge that "it is true that we differ in some regards about the management of wolves, grizzly bears and other wildlife protected by the Endangered Species Act." However, Mead and Ash state, "We have made progress on wolves and grizzly bears by focusing on areas where we can agree and on finding solutions that work for both people and wildlife."

FWS PROPOSES WEAKENING PROTECTIONS FOR SOME PARAKEETS. [The Hill](#) (1/20, Devaney, 654K) reports that the FWS is "considering weakening the protections for certain parakeets." The agency "proposed removing the scarlet-chested parakeet and turquoise parakeet from the list of endangered or threatened species back in 2003, but the changes fell to the wayside." The FWS is "now reopening the comment period on the proposal."

AERIAL OPERATIONS FOR MEXICAN WOLF POPULATION SURVEY BEGINS. The [AP](#) (1/20, 2.15M) reports that "aerial operations for the annual Mexican gray wolf population survey have begun in Arizona and New Mexico." The aerial operation began "Tuesday and is scheduled to run until Feb. 3, weather permitting." According to the article, "survey flights will occur on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, the Apache and Gila national forests in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico and possibly on some areas outside the forests."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/20, 263K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/20, 283K), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (1/20, 960K).

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP DISCUSSES SPECIES PROTECTION IDEAS. The [AP](#) (1/20, 767K) reports that "federal agencies need to do a better job considering state and local ideas when it comes to making decisions about species facing possible extinction, Idaho Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter said Tuesday." at a Western Governors' Association workshop, Otter said, "Being part of the process, being part of the solution, and being seriously considered with our ideas is what matters and will continue to matter." Panelists at the Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act Initiative "discussed voluntary conservation efforts, incentives for private land owners, best available science and critical habitat designation."

Additional coverage was provided by [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (1/20).

CLOSING OF POWER PLANTS MIGHT IMPACT MANATEES. [WTSP-TV](#) St. Petersburg, FL (1/20, Cumley, 118K) reports that "experts say 60 percent of the manatee population uses power plants for refuge when temperatures drop" but "there's talk of those plants shutting down." Ivan Vicente, with the Fish and Wildlife Service, said that King's Bay is the manatee capital of the world. [WTSP](#) explains that "the constant 74-degree water in the natural spring resting areas for manatees could become real crowded real quick." Vicente said, "We expect a big influx of manatees moving into the springs" because, as [WTSP](#) explains, "indicators lean toward coal-powered power plants could be shutting down in the next 10 to 20 years."

NEW YORK REPORTS SUCCESS IN BATTLING LAKE CHAMPLAIN SEA LAMPREY. The [AP](#) (1/21, 2.15M) reports that "New York environmental protection officials are reporting success in efforts to control sea lamprey populations in Lake Champlain." The state Department of Environmental Conservation announced

Wednesday that "lamprey-killing chemical treatments conducted last year on several of the lake's tributaries in New York and Vermont have improved conditions for landlocked Atlantic salmon and lake trout." The treatments by the DEC, in coordination with the FWS and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, are "meant to kill lamprey that attach themselves to other fish, often killing the host fish."

ANALYSIS COMPARES GREATER SAGE GROUSE LISTING DECISION TO OTHER UPLAND GAME BIRDS. Brooke M. Wahlberg, of Nossaman LLP, writes at [Lexology](#) (1/20, 3K) reports that "the greater sage grouse was perhaps the most hotly anticipated species determination arising out of the 2011 court-approved listing settlements." She explains that "with much of the western U.S. impacted by its decision, on October 2, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published its determination that listing the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act was not warranted." Wahlberg says that "the Service's determination was based largely on the collective conservation efforts of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, and private landowners." She goes on to examine how other upland game birds fared in comparison, finding that "at the heart of the disputes regarding the upland game bird species is the extent and efficacy of the conservation efforts in place prior to listing."

ALASKA URGED TO RETHINK MANAGEMENT OF GAME ANIMALS. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (1/20, 203K), Rick Sinnott, a former Alaska Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist, writes about recent NPS and FWS "regulations that will pre-empt state hunting regulations on national preserves and refuges, lands managed by the federal agencies." He says that "we're losing control over the management of game animals on national preserves and wildlife refuges" because "if Alaskan hunters would have accommodated some of the demands of other Americans, we might have retained more control over marine mammals, subsistence and hunting on federal lands." Sinnott urges the Alaska Legislature "to acknowledge that most Alaskans are not hunters and address the egregious and longstanding unbalance by repealing the intensive management law and allowing the governor to appoint nonhunters to the Board of Game."

National Park Service:

HIGH COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS IN HOVERBOARD CASE. [E&E Publishing](#) (1/20, 705) reports that "Supreme Court justices appeared skeptical today of the Obama administration's argument that it could exercise 'limited authority' to regulate state and private lands." According to the article, "that issue is central to the case of John Sturgeon, an Alaskan who's suing the government, arguing that the National Park Service improperly banned him from using his hovercraft on a river that lies within a national preserve."

The [Greenwire](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "as the case was argued before the high court today, several of the nine justices appeared inclined to uphold the government's ban on hovercrafts in the Alaskan waters." According to the article, "they questioned how rules from other agencies could apply to those waters, but Park Service rules wouldn't apply."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (1/21, Wheeler, 654K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/20, Barnes, 7.78M), [Reuters](#) (1/21, Hurley), the [Vancouver \(CAN\) Sun](#) (1/20, 539K), [Voice of America](#) (1/20, 64K), and [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (1/20, 3K).

PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT PREPARES FOR FIRST ANNIVERSARY. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (1/20, Briscoe, 2.33M) reports that "as Chicago nears the first anniversary of Pullman's designation as the city's first national monument, officials say restoration plans will start picking up speed soon." According to the article, "plans to rejuvenate the former luxury rail car manufacturing neighborhood on the Far South Side are gradually materializing, including one of the first steps toward restoring arguably the park's most identifiable landmark — the administration building — and a couple of major exhibits." On Feb. 19, "the monument's one-year anniversary, the National Park Service and several of its partners will gather in the visitors center to elaborate on what's to come in Pullman's renaissance."

NPS OVERSEEING REPAIRS ON ROUTES IN DC AREA. The [Washington Post](#) (1/20, Thomson, 7.78M) reports that the NPS is overseeing "repairs on key commuter routes" in the DC area this year. According to the article, "the park service project with the greatest effect on local travel is likely to be the overhaul of Beach Drive, which is planned to start this year and continue for more than two years."

NPS SET TO REMOVE ASPHALT AT GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE. The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (1/20, 124K) reports that the NPS will "begin its Gulf Islands National Seashore Beach Enhancement Project at Opal Beach in the Santa Rosa area of the park." According to the article, "the project involves

removing asphalt fragments and road base materials from about 1,200 acres in the Perdido Key, Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa areas of the park.”

GROUP RAISES MONEY TO STUDY FLETCHER’S COVE. The [Washington Post](#) (1/19, 7.78M) reports that Friends of Fletcher’s Cove,” a nonprofit group, is raising \$150,000 to fund a soil sample study to determine how to deal with sediment at Fletcher’s Cove.” The cove, “part of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, serves as the main public access point for the Potomac River northwest of Georgetown.” Although the NPS “repaired and reopened the dock in April, a variety of sediment-related problems remain.”

COYOTE TRACKED BY RESEARCHERS DROWNS IN LOS ANGELES PARK. The [AP](#) (1/20, 2.15M) reports that “a coyote researchers were tracking to see how the animals live in extremely urbanized areas has drowned in a popular Los Angeles park.” The NPS says “the coyote drowned last month in the lake at MacArthur Park.” NPS biologist Justin Brown says “the coyote may have been chasing a duck or fallen into the lake while trying to drink and couldn’t climb the steep concrete walls.”

FEATURE EXAMINES LAST DAYS OF MORGAN HORSE RANCH. In a feature, the [Marin \(CA\) Pacific Sun](#) (1/20, Templeton, 106K) reports on the Morgan Horse Ranch in Point Reyes. According to Phil Straub, the manager and chief horse handler at the historic ranch at the edge of Point Reyes National Seashore, “There were 80 horses up here at one point, and now there are five left. ... So when these horses are gone, that’s kind of the end of it.” The Pacific Sun says that horses bred at the ranch were once the favorite among national park rangers, but “horses in the parks have been replaced by motorized vehicles.” The feature goes on to detail the operations of the ranch and some of the efforts to ensure its continued operation.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK ENTANGLED IN TRADEMARK DISPUTE OVER LANDMARK NAMES. Additional coverage of the dispute over landmark names at Yosemite National Park was provided by the [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (1/20, 1K), the [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (1/20, 28K), and [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (1/20, 30K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT DETAILS HISTORY OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT GRAND CANYON. Additional coverage of the “alcohol-fueled incidents of sexual abuse and harassment by National Park Service river guides and other employees” at the Grand Canyon was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (1/20, 35K), [Men’s Journal](#) (1/20, 2.66M), and [Men’s Journal](#) (1/20, 2.66M).

US Geological Survey:

KIMBALL SWORN IN AS USGS DIRECTOR. The [College of William & Mary \(VA\)](#) (1/20, 11K) says that Suzette Kimball was “sworn in on Jan. 8 as the director of the United States Geological Survey, the chief science agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “I am pleased the Senate voted to confirm Dr. Suzette Kimball to this important leadership post in the Administration. As a geophysicist and veteran of decades in public service, Dr. Kimball is eminently qualified to lead the USGS.”

USGS REPORT: INVASIVE AMPHIBIAN FUNGUS COULD THREATEN SALAMANDER POPULATIONS. [Phys \(UK\)](#) (1/21, 74K) reports that “a deadly fungus causing population crashes in wild European salamanders could emerge in the United States and threaten already declining amphibians here, according to a report released today by the U.S. Geological Survey.” The report “highlights cooperative research and management efforts needed to develop and implement effective pre-invasion and post-invasion disease-management strategies if *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal) enters and affects salamanders within the United States.”

MESILLA BASIN MICROGRAVITY SURVEY TO MEASURE AQUIFER CHANGES. [KRWG-FM Las Cruces, NM](#) (1/20, 1K) reports that scientists with the USGS and the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources will “determine changes in the amount of groundwater stored in the Mesilla Basin aquifer in and around Las Cruces by precisely measuring differences in the acceleration of gravity at several locations the week of January 18.” Andrew Robertson, USGS scientist, said, “The objective of this study is to measure the effects of surface water from rivers and streams on aquifer storage and to increase our understanding of local aquifer properties. This information may help water managers make informed choices about this finite resource.”

Top National News:

OBAMA HIGHLIGHTS AUTO INDUSTRY’S RESURGENCE, BRIEFLY ADDRESSES FLINT CRISIS.

President Obama on Wednesday spent the day in Detroit, including a stop at the North American International Auto Show, for a visit that was meant to highlight the auto industry and city's recovery. Media reports note Obama spoke only briefly about the Flint water crisis, but it was that issue – not the auto industry recovery – that was the main focus in the coverage.

The AP (1/20, Freking) reports Obama's praise of the auto industry's turnaround came while he "acknowledg[ed] the water crisis in nearby Flint, Michigan...as a reminder that the government can't shortchange basic services." The President said he met with Flint Mayor Karen Weaver on Tuesday and promised additional federal aid. According to [The Hill](#) (1/20, Henry, 654K), Obama said he told Weaver that "we are going to have her back and all the people of Flint's back as they work their way through this terrible tragedy."

[ABC World News](#) (1/20, story 6, 2:00, Muir, 5.84M) reported Obama said "he would be beside himself if he were a parent in Flint." The [Detroit News](#) (1/20, Burke, 545K) quotes Obama as saying, "I know if I were a parent (in Flint) I know I would be beside myself." The President added, "It is a reminder of why you can't shortchange basic services that we provide to people."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/20, story 2, 0:55, Pelley, 5.08M) showed Obama saying, "What is inexplicable and inexcusable is, once people figured out that there was a problem and there was lead in the water, the notion that immediately families weren't notified, things weren't shut down, that shouldn't happen anywhere. It's also an indication that sometimes we downplay the role that an effective government has to play in protecting the public health and safety of people and, clearly, the system here broke down."

Both the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) and [Washington Post](#) (1/20, 7.78M) editorialize that a number of entities and individuals deserve blame for the situation in Flint. The Journal says that while Hillary Clinton and the media are portraying the crisis as the result of a Republican neglect for a poor city, the situation is actually the result of a wider government failure that includes the Environmental Protection Agency. The Journal says the EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality were discussing the water system as early as February and the federal government should have taken action earlier. The Post, likewise, says "what is crystal clear in this murky mess is that federal and Michigan officials utterly failed to safeguard the health and welfare of their citizens."

In what [Bloomberg Politics](#) (1/20, Keane, 303K) calls "a victory lap for righting the US auto industry," [USA Today](#) (1/20, Gray, Gardner, 5.56M) and the [Washington Post](#) (1/20, Eilperin, Mufson, 7.78M) report Obama was in Detroit to highlight "the resurgence" of both the auto industry and the city. [Reuters](#) (1/20, Mason) reports Obama has highlighted the bailout of General Motors and Chrysler during the recession as evidence of difficult decisions that resulted in positive results for the economy and environment. While speaking at the United Auto Workers Union center for GM workers, Obama said, "The auto industry here in the United States has figured out that we can make more fuel-efficient cars that reduce the carbon pollution that is causing climate change, and make a profit – and put more people to work." The [Washington Times](#) (1/20, Boyer, Wolfgang, 283K) reports Obama told the automakers in attendance, "I placed my bet on you. I'd make that same bet any day of the week."

The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (1/20, Troy, 248K) reports Obama "said political opponents are ignoring the country's economic success" that occurred during his presidency. Obama said the US has added 14 million new jobs and is "10 percent bigger than it was at its peak before the crisis." The President said people arguing the US is in decline "don't know what they're talking about." Obama added, "They're peddling fiction during political season. It's strange to watch people trying to out-do each other saying how bad things are. They're racing to see who can talk down America the most. These are the same folks who would have let this industry go under."

Snyder Appeals Denial Of Disaster Declaration, Releases Emails. [Politico](#) (1/20, Collins, 1.19M) says Obama did not say he will "upgrade Flint's crisis to a 'major disaster,'" and the AP (1/20, Eggert) reports Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday appealed the federal government's denial of a federal disaster declaration, saying the situation presents an "imminent and long-term threat" to residents. The AP notes the government "concluded that the high lead levels are not a disaster based on the legal requirement that disaster money is intended for natural events." In his appeal letter, Snyder "called the decision a 'narrow reading' and likened the crisis to a flood, 'given that qualities within the water, over a long term, damaged the city's infrastructure in ways that were not immediately or easily detectable.'"

In what Kevin Tibbles reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (1/20, story 6, 2:40, Holt, 7.86M) is "an attempt to show what he knew and when he knew it," [USA Today](#) (1/20, Hinkley, 5.56M) reports Snyder on Wednesday released 274 pages of his emails related to the crisis. According to USA Today, "Normally, the emails would not be disclosed publicly, but Snyder agreed to release them after pressure from the Detroit Free Press and others to

make his communications public in the wake of the public health emergency.”

The [Detroit News](#) (1/20, Livengood, 545K) reports the emails show Snyder “was advised in late September that the state bears responsibility for Flint’s water contamination problems because former state Treasurer Andy Dillon made ‘the ultimate decision’ to let the city join a new regional water system that led to the use of corrosive Flint River water.” An email from then-Chief of Staff Dennis Muchmore said, “I can’t figure out why the state is responsible except that Dillon did make the ultimate decision so we’re not able to avoid the subject.”

However, Adriana Diaz reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (1/20, story 3, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) that Snyder “took responsibility” for the crisis during his State of the State address on Tuesday night. Snyder is shown saying, “I am sorry, and I will fix it.”

The [New York Times](#) (1/20, Bosman, Davey, Smith, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Weaver on Wednesday “added her voice to a growing chorus arguing that officials found it too easy to disregard the concerns of an already disenfranchised community after the city started drawing its drinking water from the Flint River.” Weaver said the current situation would not have been allowed to reach this point in a rich suburb. According to Weaver, “It’s a minority community, it’s a poor community, and voices were not being heard.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/20, story 4, 3:15, Pelley, 5.08M) reported Snyder on Wednesday said there is extensive testing ongoing on the Flint water supply’s lead level. Snyder is shown saying, “We don’t want to consider it safe” yet, adding, “I think we’ve seen progress in terms of improvements in the water test, but until it’s been thoroughly tested, including third-party verification, we want people to assume that they should be using filters or bottled waters on an interim measure.”

Obama Visits Domestic Manufacturer Shinola. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (1/20, Thibodeau, 698K) reports that after eating lunch at Jolly Pumpkin Pizzeria and Brewery in Detroit, Obama “stopped by” goods and watch manufacturer Shinola. The area “new comers,” according to [MLive](#), “are pegged as a vital part of the resurgence – and rebranding – in the once rough” Cass Corridor area of Detroit. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (1/20, Gray, Gardner, 921K) reports the lunch was attended by Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Shinola founder Tom Kartsois, physician Tolulope Sonuyi, and GM autoworker Teana Dowdell.

White House Official Tours Detroit With Mayor. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (1/20, Helms, 921K) reports Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan took Cecilia Munoz, a Detroit native and White House chief of domestic policy, “on a quick tour of Detroit’s neighborhoods” on Wednesday morning “to show off the city’s efforts to revitalize itself.” Munoz said, “We visited some neighborhoods where very good things are happening, and you’re starting [to] see people rehabbing homes and neighborhoods coming back to life.”

Judge: Detroit Bondholders Fairly Treated. Retired US bankruptcy judge Steven Rhodes, who handled the Detroit bankruptcy case, writes in a [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) letter to the editor that bondholders in the city “did not get ‘stiffed.’” Rhodes says the high percentage of bondholders who voted in favor of the agreement “affirm that the bondholders in the Detroit case felt fairly treated.”

Detroit Teachers Staging “Sick-Out” Protest Outside Auto Show. The [CBS Evening News](#) (1/20, lead story, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) said in its lead story that Detroit’s public schools closed on Wednesday after “teachers staged a sick-out to protest what they say are dangerous buildings.” Omar Villafranca reported “hundreds” of those teachers were “protesting outside” the auto show that Obama attended.

OBAMA CONSIDERING EXECUTIVE ACTION ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE. [The Hill](#) (1/21, Swan, 654K) says President Obama “is weighing the possibility of issuing an executive order to force companies doing business with the federal government to reveal their political spending.” The Hill says such an action “would be a rare offering from a president who came to office promising major changes to campaign finance law but who has disappointed activists” who say little action has followed.

The [Huffington Post](#) (1/20, McAuliff, 251K) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said such an action “would be illegal, and he used that point to launch a wide-ranging denunciation of Obama and the president’s intentions to do as much as he can in the final year of his presidency.” McConnell said, “My goodness. I mean, does the President not have any respect for the process?”

CLINTON CAMP ACCUSES INTELLIGENCE IG, GOP OF “COORDINATED LEAK” ON EMAILS.

[McClatchy](#) (1/20, Kumar, 27K) reports that Brian Fallon, a spokesman for Hillary Clinton’s campaign, “accused the Intelligence Community Inspector General Wednesday of working with Republicans to attack the” former

secretary of state. Inspector General Charles McCullough III recently sent Senate lawmakers a letter, in which he said "he believes at least several dozen of emails Clinton sent and received while she was secretary of state contained classified material at the highest levels." Appearing on CNN, Fallon said of the letter becoming public, "I think this was a very coordinated leak." McClatchy adds that McCullough "was nominated by President Barack Obama in August 2011 to be the first inspector general for the 16 intelligence agencies and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence."

[Politico](#) (1/20, Gass, 1.19M) further quoted Fallon as saying on CNN that "two months ago, there was a political report that directly challenged the finding of this inspector general, and I don't think he liked that very much. So I think that he put two Republican senators up to sending him a letter so that he would have an excuse to resurface the same allegations he made back in the summer that have been discredited." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (1/20, 1.53M) reported that Fallon, a former Justice Department official, "charged that McCullough is colluding with Republicans to try to force Mrs. Clinton out of the race."

Clinton Disputes IG Report On SAP Intelligence On Her Email Server. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (1/20, 554K) reported that Clinton's campaign is "disputing" McCullough's assessment that her private email server contained "dozens" of emails with Special Access Program (SAP) intelligence, which are "rated beyond top secret." CNN's Evan Perez said it's unclear what information the emails contained, explaining that it's possible Clinton received a public newspaper article in which classified information was reported. Wolf Blitzer quoted Clinton as saying in a Wednesday interview with NPR, "How a New York Times public article that goes around the world could be in any way viewed as classified, or the fact that it would be sent to other people off the New York Times site, I think, is one of the difficulties that people have in understanding what this is about."

Ed Henry reported on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (1/20, 767K) that the IG's report is a "big deal" because some of the emails contained "need-to-know" information, and former intelligence officials he's spoken to say that kind of information is only shared in person. Henry added, "You certainly would not put it in an email...where the Chinese, the Russians, or others could hack in."

WSJournal: Clinton Camp's Criticism Of IG Signals Email Woes Growing Worse. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) criticizes the Clinton camp for accusing McCullough of trying to undermine the former secretary of state's campaign, saying that the move signals that Clinton's email woes are growing worse.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "***Kentucky's Bizarre Attack On Health Reform.***" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (1/21, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) criticizes Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (R) for moving forward with his plan to dismantle "the state's highly successful exchange." The Times condemns this "shortsighted and pointless show of defiance against the Obama administration's health care reforms," saying it could "harm thousands of people in Kentucky, who may fall between the cracks as the state shifts their coverage from its own exchange, known as Kynect, to the federally run exchange."

"An Important Win In The Supreme Court For Class Actions." The [New York Times](#) (1/21, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) in an editorial praises the US Supreme Court 6-3 decision in the case *Campbell-Ewald Co. v. Gomez*, as "an important victory to regular Americans," and "a surprising break from a long line of extremely pro-business and anti-class-action rulings." The court, in an opinion authored by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, ruled that a plaintiff, by rejecting a settlement by a defendant, retains "her interest in the lawsuit," and "the court's ability to grant her relief," thus preserving "what remains of the class action from the unrelenting efforts of business to undermine it."

WASHINGTON POST. "***The Presidential Candidates Have One Thing in Common – A Disregard For Our Debt Predicament.***" A [Washington Post](#) (1/20, 7.78M) editorial argues that neither the Republican nor the Democratic presidential candidates have offered "serious plans to address" the nation's "long-term fiscal predicament," which the CBO says is "worsening markedly." Instead, the Post says, the Republicans offer "vague rhetoric about the federal debt, while proposing few if any specific spending cuts – and backing immense new tax cuts," and the Democrats "propose to expand existing entitlement programs and otherwise increase social spending, while treating deficits and the debt as yesterday's problems, if at all."

"How Government Officials Failed The People Of Flint, Mich." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (1/20, 7.78M) says blame for the situation in Flint, Michigan can be attributed to several entities and individuals, adding

that “what is crystal clear in this murky mess is that federal and Michigan officials utterly failed to safeguard the health and welfare of their citizens.”

“China’s Communist Regime Could Learn From Taiwan’s Democratic Election.” The [Washington Post](#) (1/20, 7.78M) editorializes that “the gulf between” Chinese President Xi Jinping’s “Stalinist-style humiliation of critics...and Taiwan’s burgeoning liberalism does a lot to explain” Tsai Ing-wen’s victory in the recent Taiwanese elections. The Post says “by crushing domestic dissent and violating legal guarantees to Hong Kong,” Xi “is ensuring that pro-independence forces in democratic Taiwan will steadily grow.” The Post also calls on the White House to urge Beijing to “take up the president-elect’s offer to find a new formula for coexistence” and “make clear that it will respond to any attempt by China to intimidate the incoming government.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Through Hell And Flint Water.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that there is a number of entities and individuals deserve blame for the situation in Flint, Michigan. The Journal says that while Hillary Clinton and the media are portraying the crisis as the result of a Republican neglect for a poor city, the situation is actually the result of a wider government failure that includes the Environmental Protection Agency. The Journal says the EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality were discussing the water system as early as February and the Federal government should have taken action earlier.

“Illinois Union Showdown.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that if the Illinois labor relations board rules that contract negotiations between Gov. Bruce Rauner and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) are at an impasse, Rauner will make a final offer to the union after several efforts. The Journal says AFSCME, which prefers the status quo, may reject the deal in an effort to get Rauner to break or else wait him out until a Democratic governor is elected. However, Rauner doesn’t appear to be wavering, nor can he afford to if he wants to keep his promise to taxpayers who elected him in 2014.

“Hillary’s ‘Special Access’ Server.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/20, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) criticizes the Clinton camp for accusing intelligence community inspector general Charles McCullough of trying to undermine the former secretary of state’s campaign, saying that the move signals that Clinton’s email woes are growing worse.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

- [Global Stocks Sink On Fresh Growth Fears](#)
- [Markets’ Panic Incongruent With Economic Reality—For Now](#)
- [Red-Hot Property Markets Cool As Rich Investors Retrench](#)
- [Islamic State Uses Huge Syrian Dam As Refuge](#)

New York Times:

- [Taliban Attack Pakistan School, Renewing Fears](#)
- [Dire Conditions In Public Schools Threaten Detroit’s Recovery](#)
- [As Water Problems Grew, Officials Belittled Complaints From Flint](#)
- [2015 Far Eclipsed 2014 As World’s Hottest Year, Climate Scientists Say](#)
- [There May Be Ninth Planet \(Not You, Pluto\)](#)
- [New York Is Set For A New Tack On Little Crimes](#)
- [Trump Force Cruz’s Playbook To Be Rewritten](#)

Washington Post:

- [New Yorkers Sour On De Blasio, A Progressive Hero](#)
- [New Evidence Suggests A Ninth Planet Lurking At The Edge Of The Solar System](#)
- [Tech Sector Faces A Freeze](#)
- [2015 Is Hottest Year On Record 2015: So Hot, And May Still Be Rising](#)
- [Terrorists Take New Aim In Pakistan](#)

Financial Times:

- [Stock Exchanges Across The World Plunge Into Bear Market Territory](#)

Apple Steers Flagship For India As Tide Turns On Smartphone Sales In China

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas Forecast; Stock Market Decline; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Michigan Water Crisis; Pakistan Terror Attack; West Coast-Deadly Avalanches; Oscar-Diversity Boycott; 2015-Warmest Year Recorded; New Planet Discovered; Florida-Attempted Carjacking Video.

CBS: Detroit-Teacher Protest; Michigan Water Crisis-Obama; Michigan Water Crisis; Governor Snyder-Water Crisis/Teacher Protest; Winter Storm Jonas Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Pakistan-Terror Attack; Kabul-Suicide Bombing; Stock Market Decline; California-Methane Gas Leak; New Planet Discovered.

NBC: Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas Forecast; 2016 Politics-Republicans; 2016 Politics-Democrats; Stock Market Decline; Michigan Water Crisis; Pakistan-Terror Attack; Iran-US Relations; Zika Virus Warning; New Planet Discovered; 2015-Warmest Year Recorded.

Network TV At A Glance:

- 2016 Politics – 12 minutes, 20 seconds
- Michigan Water Crisis – 10 minutes, 50 seconds
- Winter Storm Jonas – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
- Stock Market Decline – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
- Pakistan-Terror Attack – 2 minutes, 5 seconds
- New Planet Discovered – 1 minute, 15 seconds
- 2015-Warmest Year Recorded – 1 minute, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Extreme Weather-DC Highway Crashes; Michigan Water Crisis; Stock Market Decline.

CBS: Stock Market Decline; Winter Storm Jonas; Congress-American SAFE Act Vote; Michigan Water Crisis-Obama; Detroit-Teachers Protest; Las Vegas-Taxi Industry Controversy.

FOX: Stock Market Decline; Winter Storm Jonas; 2016 Politics-Trump Versus Clinton; Clinton Email Scandal; Obama-Detroit Visit; Texas-Death Row Inmate Executed; Congress-American SAFE Act Vote; US Navy-Biofuel Friendly Ships Launched; New Planet Discovered.

NPR: Michigan Water Crisis-Obama; California-Exxon Mobile Investigated; Defense Secretary-ISIL; Congress-Martin Shkreli Requested To Testify; Winter Storm Jonas; Walmart-US Employee Wages Increased; Census Bureau-Centenarians.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama hosts reception for mayors at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel. The Vice President will hold a trilateral meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel. The Vice President will hold a bilateral meeting with President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel. The Vice President will hold a bilateral meeting with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina. There will be a pool spray at the top of this meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel. The Vice President will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Haider.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers Eric Fanning to be Secretary of the Army. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/> Contacts: Senate Armed Services Committee 1 202 224 3871.

9:30 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on health insurance cooperatives – Hearing on 'Healthcare Co-Ops: A Review of the Financial and Oversight Controls', with testimony from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt. Location: Rm 219, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Finance communications 1 202 224 4515.

9:30 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on innovative technologies in the automotive industry – Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the status of innovative technologies within the automotive industry, with testimony from Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Friedman; Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President and CEO Mitch Bainwol; Electric Drive Transportation Association President Genevieve Cullen; National Renewable Energy Laboratory Transportation and Hydrogen Systems Center Director Dr. Chris Gearhart; and Boston Consulting Group Senior Partner and Managing Director Xavier Mosquet. Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov. Contacts: Senate Energy Committee 1 202 224 4971.

9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the USPS – Hearing on 'Laying Out the Reality of the United States Postal Service', with testimony from Postmaster General and USPS CEO Megan Brennan, and Inspector General David Williams; Postal Regulatory Commission Acting Chairman Robert Taub; Government Accountability Office Director of Physical Infrastructure Lori Rectanus; former Department of the Treasury Chief Restructuring Officer James Millstein; National Association of Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando; National Newspaper Association President Chip Hutcheson III; and Domtar Paper Company Rothschild Mill General Manager Kathy Collins. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

10:00 AM VA Secretary McDonald testifies to Senate committee hearing on department modernization – Hearing on 'VA's Transformation Strategy: Examining the Plan to Modernize VA', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald, Under Secretary for Health David Shulkin, and Interim Under Secretary for Benefits Danny Pummill. Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>. Contacts: Senate Veterans Affairs Committee 1 202 224 9126.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Mary McElroy to be US District Judge for the District of Rhode Island; and Susan Paradise Baxter and Marilyn Jean Horan to be US District Judges for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224 7703.

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on opportunities for US engagement in Latin America – Hearing on 'Political and Economic Developments in Latin America and Opportunities for US Engagement', with testimony from former White House Chief of Staff / former US Special Envoy to the Americas Thomas McLarty III; Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Latin America Dr. Shannon O'Neil; and Americas Society and Council of the Americas Vice President Eric Farnsworth. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651.

11:30 AM Democrat senators speak on the 'need to fund gun violence research at the CDC' – Democratic Sens. Ed Markey, Charles Schumer, Chris Murphy, Ron Wyden and Ben Cardin speak on 'the need to fund gun violence research at the Centers for Disease and Control. The senators are joined at press conference by University of California at Davis Violence Prevention Research Program Director Garen Wintemute, Michigan State University Associate Professor April Zeoli, and Duke University School of Medicine Professor Jeffrey Swanson. Location: Rm S-120, US Capitol, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>. Contacts: Giselle Barry Sen. Markey Communications Director Giselle. Bary@mail.house.gov 1 202 224 2742.

11:45 AM Democratic senators call on SEC to 'shed light on dark money' – Democratic Sens. Jeff Merkley, Robert Menendez, Charles Schumer, and Elizabeth Warren call on the Securities and Exchange Commission 'to shed light on dark money and help address the growing crisis of out-of-control political spending', via press conference call with Harvard Law Professor John Coates and Public Citizen Congress Watch Division Director Lisa Gilbert * Call coincides with the 6th anniversary of the US Supreme Court decision in 'Citizens United v. FEC'. Location: TBD www.citizen.org https://twitter.com/public_citizen. Contacts: Angela Bradbery Public Citizen Communications Director abradbery@citizen.org 1 202 588 7741. CALL-IN: 1-800-875-3456, passcode BRAD71543.

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>. Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

US House: 9:00 AM IFES event on 'Women in the Military: Lessons on Leading' – Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems hold latest installment of bi-monthly 'Women, Peace and Security' breakfast series, featuring a panel discussion on 'Women in the Military: Lessons

on Leading', featuring Women in International Security Senior Fellow Ellen Haring, Reserve Officers Association Legislative and Military Policy Director Susan Lukas, and Col. (Ret.) Carolyn Washington. Location: Rm B-340, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.ifes.org <https://twitter.com/IFES1987>. Contacts: IFES media media@ifes.org 1 202 350 6700.

House of Representatives on recess from Jan. 15 – Jan. 25.

Other: Thursday, Jan. 21 – Saturday, Jan. 23 – World Economic Forum Annual Meeting continues in Switzerland – World Economic Forum Annual Meeting continues in Davos, with representatives of business, govt., academia, and civil society gathering in the Swiss ski resort to discuss economic and global issues such as poverty and climate change. This year's theme is 'Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution' * Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew, and US Trade Representative Amb. Mike Froman all attend today and tomorrow * Vice President Joe Biden today holds trilateral meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, bilateral meeting with Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, and bilateral meeting with Iraqi PM Haider Al-Abadi, while Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden attends WEF sessions today, before they depart en route for Istanbul * Other speakers today include United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and UK PM David Cameron. Location: Davos <http://www.weforum.org> <https://twitter.com/wef>. Contacts: World Economic Forum press public.affairs@weforum.org + 41 2 2869 1212.

8:00 AM Washington Auto Show Public Policy Preview Days continue – Washington Auto Show Public Policy Preview Days continue, with Industry/Media Day, concluding with a VIP Sneak Peek Reception. Includes keynotes from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator Mark Rosekind and American Honda Motor Executive Vice President John Mendel, with Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz also speaking. Press conferences also held with the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association, FCA Group-Chrysler, Alfa Romeo, General Motors, Hyundai, and the National Safety Council. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonautoshow.com/> [#WAS16](https://twitter.com/WashAutoShow). Contacts: Bonnie Moret Washington Auto Show Director of Programs bonnie@pomeranceassociates.com.

9:30 AM Kaiser Family Foundation survey findings on Medicaid and CHIP released – Kaiser Family Foundation presents findings from 'Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost-Sharing Policies as of January 2016: Findings from a 50-State Survey' – its 14th annual report on the topic, conducted by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) and Georgetown University Center for Children and Families – via public briefing. Co-authors KCMU Associate Director Samantha Artiga and Center for Children and Families Senior Fellow Tricia Brooks present key findings, and a panel of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services Director Vikki Wachino, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Office of Medicaid Business and Policy Associate Commissioner and Medicaid Director Kathleen Dunn, Alabama Medicaid Agency Deputy Commissioner for Beneficiary Services Gretel Felton, and Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing Health Information Office Director Chris Underwood offer their perspectives. Location: KFF, 1330 G St NW, Washington, DC www.kff.org <https://twitter.com/KaiserFamFound>. Contacts: Chris Lee Kaiser Family Foundation clee@kff.org 1 202 347 5270.

11:00 AM Joint Chiefs vice chairman discusses military technology at Brookings – 'Trends in Military Technology and the Future Force' Brookings Institution Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence event, with Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Gen. Paul Selva speaking on the future of military technology and the efforts being made to keep the Armed Forces at the forefront of innovation. Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>. Contacts: Brookings Institution communications events@brookings.edu 1 202 797 6105.

11:30 AM Abortion providers urge House Select Investigative Panel to focus on anti-abortion violence – Abortion providers and clinic escorts hold press conference at the National Press Club to describe their personal experiences of harassment, intimidation, and threats on the ground, and urge the House Select Investigative Committee investigating 'big abortion providers' to redirect its focus to anti-abortion violence, or to disband. Attendees include Democratic Rep. Donna Edwards, Jackson Women's Health Organization Clinic Director Shannon Brewer, clinic escort and advocate Michelle Kinsey Bruns, volunteer clinic escort Shana Broders, Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal, National Organization for Women Vice President Bonnie Grabenhoffer, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda Deputy Director Michelle Batchelor, and Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC, President and CEO Laura Meyers. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.feminist.org <https://twitter.com/>

[feministnews](#). Contacts: Beth Rader Feminist Majority Foundation brader@feminist.org 1 908 656 1753.

12:00 PM Families USA and ICER unveil 'Proven Best Choices' program – 'Proven Best Choices' unveiled by Families USA and the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review via teleconference with Families USA Executive Director Ron Pollack, Institute for Clinical and Economic Review President Steven Pearson, University of Washington Associate Professor of Radiology Dr. Janie Lee, and Harvard Medical School Professor of Radiology Oncology Dr. Anthony Zietman. The program presents a new framework through which 'patients, families, and clinicians can understand information on effectiveness and value and integrate that information into clinical decisions'. Location: TBD <http://www.familiesusa.org> <https://twitter.com/FamiliesUSA>. Contacts: Dave Lemmon Families USA media dlemmon@familiesusa.org 1 202 628 3030. Dial in toll-free: 800-896-8445; Confirmation code: 534378.

12:30 PM 'The Campaign Finance Crisis in America and How to Fix It' Brookings summit – 'The Campaign Finance Crisis in America and How to Fix It: A Solutions Summit' hosted by Brookings Institution Governance Studies program on the sixth anniversary of the 'Citizens United v. FEC' US Supreme Court decision, with current and former govt. officials, lobbyists, donors, advocates, and other experts focusing on innovative reform efforts at the federal, state, and local levels which 'offer the hope of addressing the problem of big money in politics'. Panelists include Democratic Rep. John Sarbanes, former Federal Election Commission Chairs Trevor Potter and Ann Ravel, former Sens. Claudine Schneider and Tim Wirth, former Reps. Dan Glickman, Norman Mineta, Connie Morella, and Timothy Roemer, Maine State Sen. Roger Katz, Massachusetts State Sen. Dan Wolf, North Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice Cheri Beasley, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia Justice Allen Loughry, lobbyists Chuck Merin and Jeffrey Peck, and Mayday PAC CEO Zephyr Teachout. Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>. Contacts: Brookings Institution communications events@brookings.edu 1 202 797 6105. Lunch: 12:00 pm, Panels: 12:30 pm, Reception: 5:15 pm.

1:00 PM NOAA News Conference on Winter Storm – National Weather Service Director, Louis Uccellini, Ph.D., will host a news conference to announce the latest winter storm forecast and preparations taking place for the impending winter storm for the Eastern US He also will discuss the state of forecasting and weather modeling, followed by a Q&A session. Audio only also available at: Domestic: 800-475-0381. International: 212-519-0807. Passcode: snow. Media contact: Susan Buchanan, susan.buchanan@noaa.gov, 301-427-9000 (office), 202-834-5235 (cell). Location: NOAA's, 4th Floor Media Briefing, 5830 University Research Court, College Park, MD 20740. Contacts: TBD. Media arrival 12 pm. RSVP with name, affiliation, and citizenship of the crew to: nws.pa@noaa.gov by 10 am. on Jan. 21, 2016. Members of news crews may use government credentials (i.e., Capitol Hill) for entry into the building. All others will require full security screening, so please arrive at noon to get screened and set up. Arrivals after 12:30 are not guaranteed entry. Directions: <http://www.arl.noaa.gov/documents/Directions%20to%20the%20NCWCP.pdf>.

2:00 PM SCOTUS Justice Stephen Breyer discusses new book at Brookings – US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer in conversation on his new book 'The Court and the World: American Law and the New Global Realities', hosted by Brookings Institution Governance Studies, joining Slate Senior Editor Dahlia Lithwick to discuss the book and 'other important issues related to the new global realities of an ever-expanding world'. Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #JusticeBreyer. Contacts: Brookings Institution communications events@brookings.edu 1 202 797 6105.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Kimmel: "According to a new report, emails on the private server Hillary [Clinton] used when she was secretary of state did indeed have classified information on them. This was described as above top secret stuff, which I didn't know there was an above top secret. You think top would be top. But I guess it's like 'America's Top Model,' they're not really top."

Jimmy Kimmel: "But the lesson here I think is the secretary of state needed a better secretary because, you know, if you told me a Clinton was going to have a scandal involving email, Hillary would not have been my first guest as to who it would have been."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, Bernie Sanders is having a very good week. He doesn't even know how to use

email, so that's not a problem"

Jimmy Kimmel: "He's now leading Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire by 27 points. Bernie is very well-liked among Democratic voters. Among those likely to vote in the primary, his favorability rating is 91 percent. That is incredibly high, as are many of his supporters."

Jimmy Kimmel: "That means there's a chance, a slim chance, but it could be Bernie Sanders versus Donald Trump in the general election. The old yellers, if you will. Can you imagine that, Sanders versus Trump? Look at these guys. Every debate would look like a commercial for the Flowbee."

Stephen Colbert: "Happy Hump Day, first of all. I love Hump Day. It's a nice reminder that no matter how bad things get, the end is in sight. Unless you're talking about Donald Trump. Because nothing, but nothing will ever stop this guy."

James Corden: "The Iowa caucuses are a mere two weeks away and there was a huge development yesterday, because Donald Trump received a critical endorsement from former governor of Alaska Sarah Palin. ... I mean, you just know that John McCain is on his couch at home watching the TV like, 'Donald, dude. This is a bad idea.'"

James Corden: "One person who is not getting such a ringing endorsement is Ted Cruz, whose old college roommate, Craig Mazin, has taken to Twitter to inform the world that Ted Cruz is the worst. Now, Craig Mazin wrote the movies 'The Hangover 2' and '3,' and if there is anyone on earth who can identify something as the worst, it is the guy who wrote 'The Hangover 3.'"

Trevor Noah: "You know when I first got the job to host 'The Daily Show,' people told me, 'Trevor, this is going to be hard. You'll have to study every day, because there's a presidential election going on and you can't be involved in the American political process and know nothing about it.' In fact, their exact words were, 'As an outsider, I don't know if you'll survive.' But it turns out it wasn't true. See, it turns out a lot of the presidential candidates are in the same position as I am. I feel like every day I read something in the news and I go, 'Huh, I didn't know that about the government.' And at the same time, Donald Trump is reading the same newspaper going, 'Huh, neither did I.'"

Larry Wilmore: "Tonightly, the governor of Michigan apologizes to Flint residents for the city's poisonous water supply. Oh, and speaking of IQ-lowering toxic [bull-crap], did you hear that Sarah Palin is now endorsing Donald Trump? The cover of today's 'New York Daily News' features Trump, Palin, and the headline, 'I'm With Stupid'. But hold on, guys. I'm confused. Which one isn't stupid?"

Jimmy Fallon: "Obviously, the big story is that, yesterday in Iowa, Sarah Palin gave a 20-minute speech to endorse Donald Trump for president, while Trump stood off to the side. Palin described Trump as a great leader, while Trump described being quiet for 20 minutes the most painful experience of his life."

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, at a recent town hall event in New Hampshire, Jeb Bush said he loves his mother more than his dad. While his dad says he loves winners more than people at four percent in the race for president."

Jimmy Fallon: "Over on the Democratic side, Bill Clinton has begun making solo appearances to campaign for Hillary. And a lot of people are wondering if he will help or hurt the campaign. I could see both sides to the issue. Check this out. Bill Clinton could help Hillary's chances by passing along Hillary's message. He could hurt Hillary's chances by passing along thousands of messages Hillary thought she deleted."

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, here's another one. Bill Clinton could help Hillary's chances by helping the party. He could hurt Hillary's chances by not realizing what kind of party it is and throwing his keys into a bowl."

Jimmy Fallon: "Bill Clinton could help Hillary's chances by reminding Americans of the success of his presidency. He could hurt Hillary's chances by reminding Americans of his sex excess of his presidency."

Seth Meyers: "Jeb Bush misspoke during a campaign event yesterday and mistakenly called [President] Obama's daughter Malala instead of Malia. And then when he tried to say Sasha's name, it came out, 'I don't want to run for president anymore. It's harder than I thought it would be and I don't like it.'"

Seth Meyers: "Sen. Lindsey Graham said this week that Donald Trump is the most unelectable Republican he's

seen in his lifetime. Then he walked by a mirror and said, 'Whoops, never mind! I forgot about that fellow named me.'

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, January 25, 2016

1 message

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Mon, Jan 25, 2016 at 6:58 AM

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please contact Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Interior Announces Proposal To Limit Methane Emissions.
- + Local Officials Grow Impatient With Oregon Standoff.
- + Secretary Jewell Visiting Africa To Discuss Illegal Wildlife Trafficking.
- + Interior Raises Awareness Of Conservation Efforts On Social Media.
- + Obama Administration-Energy Industry Tensions Could Head Higher During Obama's Last Year.
- + Obama Administration Shifts Storage Of Records Of Background Checks.
- + Senators Introduce Bill Cutting Federal Administrative Leave.
- + Arizona Game And Fish Commissioners Oppose Grand Canyon Monument Designation.
- + Poll: Utah Residents Divided On Public-lands Law Suit.
- + Trump Would Not Let States Take Over Federal Lands.
- + Additional Coverage: \$40 Million In Funding Announced For Nevada Projects.
- + Additional Coverage: Isleta Pueblo Regains Ancestral Land.
- + WSJournal: New Lease Moratorium A Serious Threat To Coal Industry.
- + Jay Evensen: End Fighting Over State Public Lands.
- + Guy W. Farmer: Western States Clash With Federal Government Over Federally Owned Lands.
- + Governor Otter Becomes A Reluctant Collaborator.
- + "Notional Stocks" Raising Concerns About Inaccurate Supply, Demand Oil Data.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + Interior Board Tosses Appeal Of California Tribal Leadership Council.
- + Bill Would Fund Money For Safe Houses.
- + Family Of Missing Man Criticizes BIA's Handling Of Case.
- + NIGA Chairman To Address Navajo Lawmakers.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + Interior Releases \$6.2M In Compact Funds To FSM.
- + Assistant Secretary Kia'aina Working To Address Homelessness In Hawaii.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + BOR: California Reservoirs Only Half Full After Recent Storms.
- + Lawmakers Want To Put Delta Tunnels Plan Before Voters.
- + California Fish Species Plummet To Record Low Levels.
- + BOR Outlines Water Year 2016 Central Valley Project Water Supply Conditions.
- + BOR Seeks Input On Environmental Assessment For Dam At Box Butte State Recreation Area.
- + Dams And Reservoirs Allow Yuma To Thrive.
- + Government Failed The Klamath.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + Wind Project Pleads Guilty To Bird Deaths.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Judge Tells Interior To Reexamine Cloud Peak Energy's Spring Creek Coal Mine.
- + OSMRE Questions Wyoming Regulators About Coal Mine Bond Decisions.
- + Coal Company Bankruptcies Jeopardize Reclamation.
- + Interior Takes Issue With Bankrupt Swift Energy's \$49M Sale.
- + Community Meeting To Held To Discuss Trapper, Colowyo Mines.
- + BLM Agrees To Remove Land From Oil, Gas Lease Sale.
- + Low Coal Production Impacts Resources For Abandoned Mine Clean-Up.
- + Environmental Coalition To Sue Over Four Corners Plant, Navajo Mine.
- + Fate Of Contested White River National Forest Leases Likely To Be Decided By Courts.
- + Wyoming's Power River Basin Reports Declining Coal Production.
- + Fish Habitat Files Suit Against Four Energy Companies For Fish Deaths.
- + Earthquake Bills Among 3,400 Measures To Be Considered By Oklahoma Lawmakers.
- + ExxonMobil Develops Map Of North Texas Fault Lines.
- + Texas Seismic Monitoring Program Gets Underway.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Virginia Gov. McAuliffe Urged To Oppose Offshore Drilling.
- + New Rules Worrisome To Oil and Gas Industry.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + Congressional Lands Panel Holds Hearing On Southwest Utah BLM Plan.
- + BLM Urged To Address The Overpopulation Of Burros In Arizona.
- + Two BLM Mascots Analyzed.
- + Residents Float Plan To Reopen Spring Closed By BLM.
- + Court To Hear Arguments In Wisteria Case.
- + BLM Twin Falls District To Host Open House.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS Director Ashe Signs Updated Native American Policy.
- + FWS To End Ultralight-led Whooping Crane Migration.
- + Recovery Plan For Mexican Wolves Marked By Controversy.
- + Three Zoos Receive Permission Import New Elephants From Africa.
- + Critical Habitat Identified For Two Endangered Florida Cacti.
- + Marin Municipal Water District To Survey Spotted Owls Before Chopping Down Diseased Oaks.
- + Study Shows Climate Change Threatens Snowshoe Hares.
- + Florida Wildlife Officials Urge Public To Stay Away From Migrating Birds.
- + WSJournal: Obama Administration Willing To Break ESA Rules To Further Climate Program.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Celebrating Centennial This Year.
- + Restoration Plans For Pullman National Monument To Ramp Up.
- + NPS Closes National Mall Ahead Of Big Storm.
- + NPS Says S.S. Badger Historic Designation Still Pending.
- + Paterson Mayor Denies Request By NPS To Halt Construction Of Apartment Buildings Near Great Falls.
- + Officials Look Into Chinook Burial Site Dig.
- + Former Sitka Park Superintendent Files Discrimination Suit.
- + Op-Ed: Mystic Seaport Ignores The Sabino.
- + Northbound Lanes Of George Washington Parkway Closed.
- + Missing Hiker Found Dead In Rocky Mountain National Park.
- + Opinion: The National Park Service Preserve Our Past And Future.
- + Op-Ed: Sexual Misconduct At Grand Canyon National Park Raises Concern.
- + Protecting Historic Viewshed On Washington Avenue Mall Is Essential.
- + Yosemite Concessionaire Claims Trademarks.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [In TV Interview, Obama Reflects On Presidency.](#)
- + [WSJournal Analysis: Too Soon For NBER To Declare US Heading To Recession.](#)
- + [House Postpones Votes Due To Snowstorm.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
- + [Washington Post.](#)
- + [Wall Street Journal.](#)

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 ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL TO LIMIT METHANE EMISSIONS. The Interior Department on Friday announced proposed regulations to reduce methane emissions, drawing praise from environmental groups but condemnation from Republicans and the industry. Media reporting – which included little depth – placed the proposal in the greater context of President Obama's efforts to combat climate change and highlights it comes one week after the Obama Administration announced a moratorium on coal leases on Federal land.

The [Washington Post](#) (1/22, Warrick, 7.78M) reports the Obama Administration "took a step Friday toward plugging thousands of small methane leaks from oil and gas operations around the country, saying the escaping gas is contributing to climate change." The Interior Department announced proposed regulations "that would require energy companies to reduce methane leaks in order to drill anywhere on land owned" by the Federal government or Native American tribes – about 100,000 oil wells that supply 10 percent of the country's natural gas. The [AP](#) (1/22, Daly) reports the measures "would require oil and gas producers to limit the rate of flaring at oil wells," conduct regular inspections for leaks, and "replace outdated equipment that vents large quantities of gas into the air."

[Vice](#) (1/22, Ankrom, 1.88M) reports Interior Secretary Jewell said in a statement, "I think most people would agree that we should be using our nation's natural gas to power our economy – not wasting it by venting and flaring it into the atmosphere." Jewell added, "We need to modernize decades-old standards to reflect existing technologies so that we can cut down on harmful methane emissions and use this captured natural gas to generate power and provide a return to taxpayers, tribes, and states for this public resource." [Newsweek](#) (1/22, 164K) reports on its website that the Bureau Of Land Management estimates the new rules will "prevent the loss of up to 56 billion cubic feet of gas a year...which could supply around 760,000 households annually." The BLM also said it will "avoid methane emissions that would be equivalent to up to 4.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year."

The [New York Times](#) (1/22, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says the move is the "latest step by President Obama to use his executive authority to clamp down on the fossil fuel emissions that contribute to climate change, and make it more expensive for oil, gas and coal companies to mine and drill on public land." [Bloomberg News](#) (1/22, Dlouhy, 3.4M) reports the rules "are seen as a precursor for restrictions that could be imposed on existing oil and gas wells on private lands and come as the industry suffers through a contraction caused by plummeting crude prices." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/22, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports the rules are expected to be completed later this year following a public comment period and the implementation would be phased in over three years. According to the Interior Department, the measures are expected to cost the industry \$125 million to \$161 million per year.

The [Washington Times](#) (1/22, Boyer, 283K) reports Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider said the regulations are "commonsense and cost-effective" and stem "from several government studies and feedback from stakeholders and native American tribes." However, according to [The Hill](#) (1/22, Cama, 654K), "Republicans and the oil and gas industry dismissed the standards as an unnecessary attack on fossil fuels" only a week after the White House issued a three-year moratorium on new coal mining leases on Federal land.

House Speaker Ryan said, "This will stymie oil and natural gas development on federal lands, which is the president's real goal: to keep it in the ground." Ryan added, "As the markets drop, and America's saving and retirement portfolios suffer, it's astonishing that this president would seek to further cripple America's energy industry. The American people's welfare should not have to compete with the president's desire to cement his climate legacy."

The [Daily Caller](#) (1/22, Bastasch, 366K) reports the industry contends companies already have the necessary incentive to capture as much methane as possible, because letting product vent into the atmosphere means less is available to sell. According to the Caller, "Oil and gas operations are already cutting the amount of methane flared, vented or leaked despite huge increases in hydrocarbon production" and the EPA's latest data shows methane emissions dropped 13 percent between 2011 and 2014. [US News & World Report](#) (1/22, Neuhauser, 996K) reports on its website that some environmental groups "take the opposite view" and "argue that the industry's high level of compliance indicates the regulations could have been made even stricter."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNBC](#) (1/22, 2.08M), the [Financial Times](#) (1/22, Jopson, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), [PBS NewsHour](#) (1/24, 168K), [MarketWatch](#) (1/24, 758K), [Reuters](#) (1/22), [Reuters](#) (1/24), [Bloomberg Research](#) (1/24, 3.4M), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/24, 476K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/24, 263K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (1/24, 1.15M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/22, Daly, Press, 2.15M), the [Rutland \(VT\) Herald](#) (1/23, 38K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (1/22, 158K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (1/23, 87K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (1/23, 54K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (1/23, Dlouhy, 825K), the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (1/24, 32K), [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (1/24, 73K), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 270K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/22, 44K), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (1/24, 102K), the [Orange County \(CA\) Breeze](#) (1/23, 85), the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (1/24, 55K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/24, 81K), the [Barre Montpelier \(VT\) Times Argus](#) (1/23, 20K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (1/22, 4K), the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M), [La Repubblica \(ITA\)](#) (1/24, 1K), the [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (1/24), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (1/22, 2K), the [Montana Public Radio](#) (1/24), [Fortune](#) (1/22, 4.24M), [The Blaze](#) (1/22, 1.89M), [Think Progress](#) (1/22, 293K), [Rigzone](#) (1/24, 11K), [ENews Park Forest](#) (1/22, 2K), [Inside Climate News](#) (1/24), the [Scientific American](#) (1/24, 3M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Volcovici, 6.43M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Volcovici, 6.43M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Daly, Press, 6.43M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (1/24, 6.15M), [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\) Butte, MT](#) (1/24), [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\) Jacksonville, FL](#) (1/24, 74K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\) Washington](#) (1/24, 276K).

LOCAL OFFICIALS GROW IMPATIENT WITH OREGON STANDOFF. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that local and state officials are losing patience with Federal law enforcement officials as they allow the standoff at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to continue. The Journal says that residents of Harney County are concerned about a possible outbreak of violence. Meanwhile, Burns Paiute Tribal members expressed outrage after Finicum was shown rummaging through boxes of artifacts in a Facebook video. Finicum said that it was the Fish and Wildlife Service that had damaged artifacts. Meanwhile, Fish and Wildlife officials said the artifacts are supposed to be left untouched, and that the occupiers were inflicting damage. "Some of these are 8,000 to 9,000 years old," said Jason Holm, an agency spokesman, said of the artifacts. "If you are not trained in this world, which they are not, the opportunity to do damage is absolutely there."

New "Players" Demand End To Oregon Occupation. In a 1,700-word article, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (1/22, Jonsson, 496K) reports "the number of players" involved in the occupation of Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge "has unexpectedly enlarged," as "local residents, environmentalists, hikers, birders, and even a science-fiction legend have" begun calling for Ammon and Ryan Bundy's antigovernment militia to end their "tense standoff" with law enforcement. According to the article, while "many in the rural West actually appreciate Mr. Bundy's political message," many others believe the armed protesters "are putting on political theater that paints their fellow Westerners in a poor light and disregards – and even undermines – the approach favored by many who seek to reshape the West's future without a revolution."

Rancher Renounces Federal Grazing Contract At Bundy Event. The [AP](#) (1/24, Ridler, 2.15M) reports that "a rancher from New Mexico renounced his U.S. Forest Service grazing contract at an event held by an armed group occupying a national wildlife refuge in Oregon to protest federal land use policies." According to the article, "Adrian Sewell of Grant County, New Mexico, took the action at the event attended by about 120 people at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (1/24, Kamisar, 654K), the [Oregonian](#) (1/24, 769K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 7.78M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (1/24, 629K), and [US News & World](#)

[Report](#) (1/23, 996K).

Forum On Oregon Standoff Canceled Over Safety Concerns. The [AP](#) (1/24, 2.15M) reports that “a judge who planned to host a community meeting Monday over the standoff at an Oregon wildlife refuge has canceled it due to safety concerns.” Hamey County Judge Steve Grasty said in a news release that “authorities had become aware of plans to protest the meeting and block the entrance to the county senior center, where it was to be held.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/24, 283K) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 7.78M).

Leader Of Militia Group Balks At FBI Talks Without Media. The [AP](#) (1/24, 629K) reports that Ammon Bundy, the leader of an armed group, “met briefly with a federal agent Friday, but left because the agent wouldn’t talk with him in front of the media.” According to the article, “Bundy wants face-to-face conversations in front of reporters.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (1/22, Ridler, 1M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (1/24, 263K), and the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (1/23, 2.33M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/24, Sonner), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 825K), [USA Today](#) (1/23, Anglen, 5.56M), the [Arizona Republic](#) (1/23, 960K), the [Oregonian](#) (1/24, 769K), the [Willamette \(OR\) Week](#) (1/23, 120K), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (1/24, 3.59M), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (1/24, 200K), [TIME](#) (1/24, 19.1M), [Esquire Magazine](#) (1/24, 3.88M), and the [Huffington Post](#) (1/22, 251K).

SECRETARY JEWELL VISITING AFRICA TO DISCUSS ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The [Oklahoman](#) (1/24, 470K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “on a visit to Africa including Gabon, Kenya, South Africa to discuss illegal trafficking of wild live with NGO ‘s and other government officials.”

[Modern Ghana](#) (1/24, 2K) reports that Jewell’s trip, “which begins Thursday, January 21, and runs through the following week, follows her recent participation at the 21st Conference of Parties(COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, where she met with senior officials from the countries of Gabon, Kenya and Namibiato discuss methods to combat wildlife trafficking in partnership with other consumer, transit and source countries.”

In an interview with the [East African \(KEN\)](#) (1/24, 287), Jewell explained her mission. She said: “African countries are often the source of elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolin and illegally taken wildlife destined for markets in Asia and the US. The Obama administration is particularly concerned about the rise in cases of wildlife trafficking from Africa to Asia, Europe and the US. ... In each of the three countries I will be visiting — Gabon, Kenya and South Africa — I will hold meetings with top government officials and nongovernmental organisations that are active in wildlife conservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Star Africa](#) (1/24), the [Blasting News \(CHE\)](#) (1/24),, and the [Standard \(ZWE\)](#) (1/24, 102K).

INTERIOR RAISES AWARENESS OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. [FedScoop](#) (1/24) reports that the Interior Department is “mixing in policy messages with its beautiful pictures on Instagram to spread awareness of conservation efforts.” The department has “almost 1.5 million followers between Instagram and Twitter alone — it also posts on Vine, Facebook, Tumblr and Snapchat — and by slipping in posts about policy and conservation, Rebecca Matulka, senior digital media strategist for Interior, said she is able to reach a much bigger audience than traditional mediums to spread awareness.” Matulka said, “It’s the photos that draw people to our accounts and allows us to share all the other great work the Department is doing. The result is our policy-related content reaches a much larger audience than most other federal government agencies.”

Meanwhile, [KSDK-TV St. Louis](#) (1/22, 281K) announced “a new content partnership” with the Interior Department. Starting January 22, the site will “begin posting amazing photographs taken of some of the most breathtaking places our nation has to offer.” It’s part of a federal project called Share The Experience, which is a federal Recreation Lands photo contest.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION-ENERGY INDUSTRY TENSIONS COULD HEAD HIGHER DURING OBAMA’S LAST YEAR. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (1/23, Kovski, 7K) reported that tensions between the energy

industry and the Obama Administration are high and could head higher during Obama's final year in office. Industry representatives "suggest the difficulties are not a matter of bureaucracies but rather of policies stemming from the White House, and the policies may be driven in 2016 by concerns about climate change and an activist campaign to keep fossil fuels in the ground."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SHIFTS STORAGE OF RECORDS OF BACKGROUND CHECKS. The [New York Times](#) (1/22, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that the Obama Administration on Friday said that the Defense Department would "take over the storage of records from federal background checks, part of an overhaul prompted by a colossal cybersecurity breach at the Office of Personnel Management." According to the article, "a major component of the overhaul will be the creation of a new agency that will process federal background checks." The agency, called the National Background Investigations Bureau, will be "part of the personnel office but will be led by a presidential appointee."

SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL CUTTING FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. The [Washington Post](#) (1/22, Davidson, 7.78M) reports Sens. Chuck Grassley, Ron Johnson, Tom Carper, and Jon Tester introduced the Administrative Leave Act of 2016. A statement by Grassley explained the legislation "is designed to 'cut down on excessive, abusive, expensive leave and protect whistle-blower employees who are put on leave in retaliation for their actions.'" The Post says the "Senior Executives Association, the Federal Managers Association and the National Border Patrol Council, which is part of the American Federation of Government Employees, have endorsed the legislation."

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSIONERS OPPOSE GRAND CANYON MONUMENT DESIGNATION. The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (1/24, 23K) reports that "the five-member Arizona Game and Fish Commission and 10 former commissioners have sent a letter to President Barack Obama, urging that he not designate 1.7 million acres in northern Arizona as a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument." Calling the proposed monument "a solution to a non-existing problem," the commissioners said "designating this large swath of land as a national monument could impose unnecessary rules and regulations, negatively impact outdoor recreation, and compromise the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to manage and conserve the public's wildlife." They "support the multiple-use concept on public land, as that approach provides the most wildlife-related recreational opportunities for the public and allows the commission and department to work closely with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on sustainable resource management."

POLL: UTAH RESIDENTS DIVIDED ON PUBLIC-LANDS LAW SUIT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (1/24, Maffly, 339K) reports that, according to a survey by the Salt Lake Tribune and the University of Utah, "Utahns are divided over whether the state should sue the federal government to gain title to 31 million acres of federal land." The Tribune says that "by a 13-point margin, Utah voters favor filing a suit, estimated to cost taxpayers \$14 million, aimed at transferring title of public lands." The report goes on to say that "support was strongest among Republicans and conservatives, 62 percent and 68 percent, respectively; men, 53 percent; and Mormons at 55 percent."

TRUMP WOULD NOT LET STATES TAKE OVER FEDERAL LANDS. [CBS News](#) (1/24, 4.1M) reports that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump "would not let states take control of federal lands, the Republican presidential candidate said in a recent interview." Trump said, "I don't like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don't know what the state is going to do."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Detroit Free Press](#) (1/22, 921K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: \$40 MILLION IN FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR NEVADA PROJECTS. Additional coverage of the \$40 million in funding announced for projects around Nevada was provided by the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (1/24).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ISLETA PUEBLO REGAINS ANCESTRAL LAND. Additional coverage of the 90,000 acres of ancestral land returned to the Isleta Pueblo was provided by [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (1/24, 10K).

WSJOURNAL: NEW LEASE MORATORIUM A SERIOUS THREAT TO COAL INDUSTRY. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/22, A12, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes the Interior Department's new three-year moratorium on issuing coal leases for mining on Federal lands may kill the industry in western states – particularly Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (1/22, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the

[Huffington Post](#) (1/24, 251K), the [Indiana \(PA\) Gazette](#) (1/24, 42K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (1/24, 44K), the [Sheridan \(WY\) Media](#) (1/24), the [Houston \(TX\) Community Newspapers](#) (1/25, 524K) and the [Bonham \(TX\) Journal](#) (1/23, 13K).

JAY EVENSEN: END FIGHTING OVER STATE PUBLIC LANDS. In an opinion for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/25, 476K) Jay Evensen states the compromise by Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz "to end all the fighting over public lands in the state" means "we are now certain public lands issues never will be solved."

GUY W. FARMER: WESTERN STATES CLASH WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OVER FEDERALLY OWNED LANDS. In an opinion in the [Nevada Appeal](#) (1/24, 51K) Guy W. Farmer stated that in a Republic, states should not "accept federal control of state lands in perpetuity." However, states should not clash with the federal government over land and water issues. Rather states should negotiate turnovers of federal lands by recovering unproductive federal lands.

GOVERNOR OTTER BECOMES A RELUCTANT COLLABORATOR. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (1/24, 218K) reported that "Idaho Gov. Butch Otter has enthusiastically embraced the collaborative process" after being "intransigent." Otter was tasked with developing a plan for Idaho to protect sage grouse without need for invoking the Endangered Species Act. However, the Bureau of Land Management added "new Sagebrush Focal Areas, which set up a process to withdraw 12 million acres across 11 Western states from mineral and oil and gas development." This was done in lieu of listing sage grouse as a threatened species. Otter sued Interior Secretary Sally Jewell only after his plan was not adopted.

"NOTIONAL STOCKS" RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT INACCURATE SUPPLY, DEMAND OIL DATA. A 1,406-word [Reuters](#) (1/22, Kemp) analysis examines the problems associated with generating statistical data and forecasting about oil production, consumption and reserves, highlighting how the ability to do this has improved in the US since the oil crisis of the 1970s. However, Reuters also points out how data on international markets is far less comprehensive and accurate, particularly in emerging markets. The article explores some of the issues with missing barrels of oil, or notional stocks, which it claims is a problem now with the current situation of global oversupply given that not all of these barrels of oil are visible.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR BOARD TOSSES APPEAL OF CALIFORNIA TRIBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. [Law360](#) (1/24, 30K) reports that the Interior Department's Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Thursday "tossed four consolidated appeals filed in opposition to a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision recognizing an interim tribal council for the purposes of negotiating a contract with a California Native American tribe." The IBIA "rejected the challenges to the BIA's pacific regional director's 2014 decision to recognize the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians' 2010 council over other tribal factions in order to negotiate an Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act contract."

BILL WOULD FUND MONEY FOR SAFE HOUSES. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (1/24) reports that "for victims of violent crime on the Wind River Indian Reservation, finding help and safety after an attack can be hard. A lack of funding means there are very few services for crime victims there." According to the article, "recently, the only safe house for victims of sexual assault on Wind River closed down when its funding went dry, forcing victims to risk traveling to nearby towns to shelters off the reservation." However "a new bill recently introduced in Congress would make it easier for tribes to get money to run their own safe house." Sen. John Barrasso, chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, recently introduced the SURVIVE Act or the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act.

FAMILY OF MISSING MAN CRITICIZES BIA'S HANDLING OF CASE. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (1/24, 171K) reports that "the family of a 24-year-old former Kyle man missing for 12 weeks says Bureau of Indian Affairs agents have been indifferent to his disappearance amid rumors that he was murdered and buried somewhere on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation." Alex "Tank" Gay, also known as Alejandro "Tank" Vazquez, was last seen Oct. 29 near Kyle. His cousin Misty Hernandez said, "It's been more than two months and still not a word from him or help from anyone. We've been asking for help, and no one seems to care."

NIGA CHAIRMAN TO ADDRESS NAVAJO LAWMAKERS. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/24, 44K) reports that "the chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association is set to address the Navajo Nation Council prior to Monday's start of the winter session." Emie Stevens Jr. will "talk to tribal lawmakers about the benefits of Indian gaming and the role it plays in strengthening tribal sovereignty."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/24, 283K), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (1/24, 270K), [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (1/24, 78K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (1/24, 464K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR RELEASES \$6.2M IN COMPACT FUNDS TO FSM. The [Marianas Variety](#) (1/24) reports that "in Dec. 2015, the Federated States of Micronesia Department of Finance received Compact grant assistance payments from the United States government totaling \$6.2 million." According to the article, "Compact grant payments included funding for an after-school sports pilot project being implemented at ten elementary schools across Pohnpei to encourage physical activity and create healthy lifestyle interests in elementary school students."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA WORKING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (1/24, 41) reported on Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell's "trip to the nation's capital this week." Caldwell said that Esther Kia'aina, who heads the Office of Insular Affairs, "is working on creating a strategic group of leaders to ensure better housing opportunities for families who travel to Hawaii from Micronesia."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR: CALIFORNIA RESERVOIRS ONLY HALF FULL AFTER RECENT STORMS. The AP (1/22, 174K) reports that "the recent onslaught of El Nino storms only slightly increased the levels of California reservoirs that now stand at half of historic depths for this time of year, federal officials said Friday while releasing an initial water outlook for 2016." The BOR said that "the federally operated reservoirs that supply farms and cities throughout the agriculture-rich Central Valley are now 49 percent full, compared with 47 percent on Oct. 1." BOR spokesman Shane Hunt said that "much of the heavy rainfall in recent weeks has soaked into the landscape left parched by four years of drought, and the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada has grown but hasn't started to melt off and replenish the critically low reservoirs."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/22, 2.15M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/22, Press, 1.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/22, Scott Smith I, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, Smith, 283K), [Fox News](#) (1/22, 9.42M), [CNBC](#) (1/22, 2.08M), the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (1/24, 73K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (1/23, 113K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (1/22, Xia, Lin, 3.6M), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 270K), the [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (1/24, 17K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (1/24, 515K), the [Log Cabin \(AR\) Democrat](#), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (1/22, 3.48M), the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Smith, 6.43M), [KTXL-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (1/22, 89K), [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (1/22, 89K), [KXJZ-FM Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (1/22, 6K), and [KFSN-TV Fresno \(CA\)](#) Fresno, CA (1/24, 114K).

LAWMAKERS WANT TO PUT DELTA TUNNELS PLAN BEFORE VOTERS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/22, Mason, 3.6M) reports that "lawmakers representing the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, the heart of California's water system, have introduced a bill that would make Gov. Jerry Brown's controversial twin tunnels project subject to statewide voter approval." The article notes that "the tunnels already face one challenge at the ballot box: an initiative slated for November 2016 would require voter approval for many public works projects, including the delta plan." Now, "delta-area lawmakers of both parties want to explicitly single out the tunnels project for a statewide vote."

CALIFORNIA FISH SPECIES PLUMMET TO RECORD LOW LEVELS. [EcoWatch](#) (1/22, 23K) reports that "fish species ranging from endangered Delta Smelt to Striped Bass continued to plummet to record low population levels in 2015 in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, according to the annual fall survey report released on Dec. 18, 2015 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife." Meanwhile, "as fish populations continue to collapse, the California Department of Water Resources and Bureau of Reclamation are going forward with permit petitions to the State Water Resources Control Board to change the point of diversion on the Sacramento River to implement Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta Tunnels Plan."

BOR OUTLINES WATER YEAR 2016 CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (1/24, 1K) reports that "in preparation for the initial 2016 water supply allocation announcement later this winter, the Bureau of Reclamation is providing an update on water supply conditions for the federal Central Valley Project (CVP)." Mid-Pacific Regional Director David Murillo said, "On December 30,

the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) held their first manual snow survey of the year and found the water content to be 16.3 inches, or 136 percent of the January 1 average. With this promising news and El Niño storms beginning to materialize, we are feeling encouraged. However, storage in our reservoirs remains low, and we must be prudent as we develop initial operation plans and allocations for CVP water contractors.”

BOR SEEKS INPUT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR DAM AT BOX BUTTE STATE

RECREATION AREA. The [North Platte \(NE\) Telegraph](#) (1/24, 30K) reports that the BOR is “seeking comment regarding an environmental assessment document for the dam at Box Butte State Recreation Area north of Hemingford.” According to the article, “engineers have identified problems with sedimentation through the dam’s toe drain — a perforated pipe that runs along the base of the earthen dam to collect water from the reservoir’s seepage and move it to the downstream side of the embankment.”

DAMS AND RESERVOIRS ALLOW YUMA TO THRIVE. The [Yuma \(AZ\) Sun](#) (1/24, Lobeck, 70K) reported how the Boulder Canyon Act of 1928, authorizing construction of several dams, including the Hoover Dam, is now preventing flooding of Yuma while simultaneously storing reservoir water that is still providing water to farmland and cities after 16 years of drought.

GOVERNMENT FAILED THE KLAMATH. Jason Atkinson wrote in the [Huffington Post](#) (1/22, 251K) blog that the Government failed the Klamath by not endorsing a settlement that “took 46 groups 15 years to craft.” According to Atkinson, the “tribes start the year fighting each other for money under the concept of ‘tribal parity,’” and “settlement parties are back to their corners with new people...whose incentives are to start over and try to get a better deal.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND PROJECT PLEADS GUILTY TO BIRD DEATHS. The AP (1/22) reports that wind power generation plant AES Laurel Mountain “has pleaded guilty to two federal misdemeanors in the deaths of hundreds of migratory birds at its Barbour County facility.” The birds had been confused by the lighting of the complex. The filing cites noncompliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE TELLS INTERIOR TO REEXAMINE CLOUD PEAK ENERGY’S SPRING CREEK COAL MINE. The AP (1/22, Brown, Press, 2.15M) reports that “federal officials must re-examine a 117 million-ton expansion of an eastern Montana coal mine after a judge sided with environmentalists who sued over the project’s potential to make climate change worse and cause other environmental damage.” U.S. District Judge Susan Watters gave the Interior Department nine months to reexamine “the proposal for the Cloud Peak Energy’s Spring Creek mine near Decker, Montana, along the Wyoming border.” Watters wrote Thursday that “in its prior review, the agency ‘failed to take a hard look’ at the expansion.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, Brown, 283K), the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (1/24, 19K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (1/24, 356K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/22, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 7.78M), [ABC News](#) (1/24, 3.35M), [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M), [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Brown, 6.43M), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (1/24, NBCMontana, 1K).

OSMRE QUESTIONS WYOMING REGULATORS ABOUT COAL MINE BOND DECISIONS. The AP (1/22, Gruver, Press, 2.15M) reports that “federal regulators have told Wyoming to provide more justification for allowing less than full bonding for four coal mines while the mine owners go through bankruptcy reorganization.” According to the article, “bonding for the mines owned by Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources is insufficient under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, groups including the Powder River Basin Resource Council told the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality last year.” The article says that “citing the groups’ complaints,” the OSMRE “on Thursday gave the state agency 10 days to further justify why it’s not seeking full bonding from the companies.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (1/24, Rucker), the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (1/24, 19K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (1/24, 620K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, Gruver, 283K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/24, 81K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (1/22, Gruver, Press, 6.43M).

COAL COMPANY BANKRUPTCIES JEOPARDIZE RECLAMATION. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/25, 74K) reports that “instead of setting aside cash or getting a financial institution to guarantee that land will be reclaimed...several of the biggest coal companies, including Peabody, took advantage of a provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 that allows them to self-bond.” However, “recently, after decades as industry stalwarts, some of those companies, including Peabody, have seen their finances nosedive, and fears about whether they will be able to meet their growing financial obligations to restore the land have reached a crescendo.” According to the article, “if those self-bonded companies go bankrupt without adequate assets to back their reclamation liability, state and federal taxpayers could find themselves responsible for filling in those massive pits, reseeding grasslands and trying to restore damaged streams, springs and aquifers.”

INTERIOR TAKES ISSUE WITH BANKRUPT SWIFT ENERGY'S \$49M SALE. [Law360](#) (1/24, 30K) reports that “the U.S. government took issue Friday with bankrupt Swift Energy's proposed \$49 million sale of some of its Louisiana oil and gas assets, arguing that it could wind up transferring federal contract rights without first seeking Uncle Sam's consent.” In a motion before the Delaware bankruptcy court, the BLM and ONRR “contended that the proposed sale was not filed with enough lead time for the government to investigate what interests it has in the assets.”

COMMUNITY MEETING TO HELD TO DISCUSS TRAPPER, COLOWYO MINES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (1/22, 10K) reports that “a community meeting on coal will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Moffat County High School's auditorium.” According to the article, “at the meeting, representatives of local government, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Trapper Mining Inc. will discuss the ongoing environmental assessments for operations at Trapper and Colowyo mines.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (1/24) and [SweetwaterNOW \(WY\)](#) (1/24).

BLM AGREES TO REMOVE LAND FROM OIL, GAS LEASE SALE. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (1/24, 81K) reports that the BLM has “granted the City of Casper's request that two parcels of land be removed from an oil and gas lease sale in the Cole Creek Road area.” The City Council “last week sent a letter to the BLM asking for the withdrawal of two of 12 parcels in the sale scheduled for Feb. 2.” In a notice Thursday, the BLM said it “will defer lands within the annexation area from leasing until the City of Casper makes its final decision on the application for annexation, or it is determined that an application for annexation is no longer anticipated.”

LOW COAL PRODUCTION IMPACTS RESOURCES FOR ABANDONED MINE CLEAN-UP. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (1/24) reported on Pennsylvania's abandoned mine lands which include waste coal piles, abandoned highwall mines, underground fires and mines that leach acid drainage into rivers and streams. Out of all that states, Pennsylvania has the most abandoned mine project sites. According to Eric Cavazza, director of the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), many sites are not being cleaned up due to lack of funds and a shrinking budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION TO SUE OVER FOUR CORNERS PLANT, NAVAJO MINE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (1/24, 44K) reports that “last month, a coalition of environmental groups gave legal notice of plans to oppose several federal agencies' approval of operations at Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine.” According to the article, “the groups on Dec. 21 filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies for approving the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project last summer.” The coalition “includes the environmental groups Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Amigos Bravos, Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club.”

FATE OF CONTESTED WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST LEASES LIKELY TO BE DECIDED BY COURTS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (1/24, 73K) editorializes that until the BLM “issues a record of decision on 65 contested oil and gas leases in the White River National Forest, the future of energy development in the Thompson Divide remains the object of a semantic war.” Rep. Scott Tipton, Mesa County commissioners and “energy industry representatives view any attempts to cancel leases as an ‘illegal taking’ — a violation of contractual law and private-property rights.” However, “conservation and citizen groups that want to preserve the divide from oil and gas development say the leases were issued illegally and that the BLM is well within the law to take corrective action.” Although the paper agrees with “Tipton that canceling any leases is tantamount to a taking, we don't think he should be drawing additional lines in the sand.” It says that “the courts will determine the takings question and the congressman shouldn't complicate the possibility of a compromise

— especially one that has strong and diverse grassroots support among his constituents.”

WYOMING'S POWER RIVER BASIN REPORTS DECLINING COAL PRODUCTION. The AP (1/24) reports that coal production in Wyoming's Powder River Basin declined by 4.8 percent in 2015, representing “a drop of nearly one-fifth in eight years.” The AP notes, “the coal industry is being hurt by increased federal regulation and restrictions as well as low prices for competing natural gas.”

FISH HABITAT FILES SUIT AGAINST FOUR ENERGY COMPANIES FOR FISH DEATHS. Drawing on coverage from the Durango Herald, the AP (1/25) reported that the Little Fishes Wildlife Habitat has filed a lawsuit against four oil and gas companies it “blames for a 2014 fish die off.” The fish habitat “says contaminated runoff from nearby well pads seeped into ponds and killed the rainbow trout,” and named Catamount Energy Partners, ConocoPhillips Company, Williams Four Corners and SG Interests in the suit.

EARTHQUAKE BILLS AMONG 3,400 MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED BY OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS. The AP (1/23, Murphy) reported that Oklahoma lawmakers will “have more than 3,400 measures to consider when the 2016 session begins on Feb. 1.” Several bills “have been introduced to address the growing number of earthquakes that have been rattling Oklahoma and been linked to the disposal of wastewater from oil and natural gas production.” House Speaker Jeff Hickman “said he believes the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has all of the statutory authority it needs to regulate wastewater disposal.” However, Hickman also “said priorities for the Legislature will include ensuring a seismologist is hired by the Oklahoma Geological Survey and that the commission has funding to update its data collection for wastewater disposal wells.”

EXXONMOBIL DEVELOPS MAP OF NORTH TEXAS FAULT LINES. The Dallas Morning News (1/22, 1.26M) reported on a new map, developed by ExxonMobil Corp, which “provides new information about the existence of underground features that could be contributing to the earthquakes that have been jolting North Texas for the last several years.” While energy companies may see that the map “shows that at least some of the temblors are probably natural and unrelated to oil and gas activity,” for scientists studying the quakes “the map is merely a tantalizing glimpse of the kind of information they need to understand where earthquakes may strike and how strongly they could shake the ground.”

TEXAS SEISMIC MONITORING PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY. The Austin (TX) American Statesman (1/25, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 405K) reported that the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program, which is funded by \$4.5 million set aside by state lawmakers and overseen by the University of Texas, is “getting off the ground” after an increase in earthquakes in North Texas prompted lawmakers to further seismic studies in the state. The project’s findings “could have long-term consequences for the oil and gas industry.”

Offshore Energy Development:

VIRGINIA GOV. MCAULIFFE URGED TO OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING. The Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (1/24, 374K) reports that “in a hotel conference room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, a delegation of more than a dozen business and environmental leaders tried this week to convince Gov. Terry McAuliffe to join them in opposing oil and gas drilling off Virginia’s coast.” According to the article, “they won a pledge that he’d take a hard look at their concerns – but no indication that the governor will switch from the pro-drilling side.” McAuliffe “reiterated in the meeting that his main reason for pursuing drilling was its potential to create jobs and stressed that he wants to protect the environment, said those who attended.”

Florida Officials Issue Notice To Permit Oil-related Testing. The Panama City (FL) News Herald (1/24, 93K) reports that “state officials plan to issue a permit for seismic testing for oil and gas on land in Gulf and Calhoun counties, according to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notice of intent.”

In an op-ed for the Carteret County (NC) News-Times (1/24, 28K), Donald R. van der Vaart, the secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, argues in support of seismic surveying.

In an o-ed for the Greenville (SC) News (1/25, 173K), David Holt, President of the Consumer Energy Alliance, supports offshore drilling. He asserts that “offshore energy producers must not only comply with a throng of requirements that Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called ‘the most aggressive and comprehensive offshore oil and gas regulatory reforms in the nation’s history,’ but they’ve also taken deep-pocketed voluntary measures to improve their operations.”

The [Island Gazette \(NC\)](#) (1/24, 23K) editorializes that “the important question now is, will officials in Washington listen to the 100 communities that oppose drilling in the Atlantic?”

NEW RULES WORRISOME TO OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY. The [Opelousas \(LA\) Daily World](#) (1/23, Stickney, 26K) reported that Dale Bradford, vice president, worldwide drilling and completions for Murphy Exploration & Productions, disagreed with proposed new federal regulations governing oil wells. According to Bradford, the rules are too broad and would prevent some wells from drilling. However, a spokesman for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement stated the rules were developed with full input the oil and gas industry.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

CONGRESSIONAL LANDS PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON SOUTHWEST UTAH BLM PLAN. The [AP](#) (1/22, 2.15M) reports that “members of a congressional subcommittee said Friday that federal land managers ignored concerns from locals that a southwestern Utah land management proposal will unfairly restrict grazing, water access and transportation.” The House Subcommittee on Federal Lands “took the unusual step of holding a hearing in St. George on Friday to air concerns about the plan.” According to the article, “state and local officials said the plan from the Bureau of Land Management violates terms negotiated under a 2009 law that established two conservation areas.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, 283K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/24, 476K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (1/24, 476K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (1/24, 464K).

BLM URGED TO ADDRESS THE OVERPOPULATION OF BURROS IN ARIZONA. The [AP](#) (1/24, 64K) reports that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has called on the BLM “to address the overpopulation of burros in the state.” The commission “passed a resolution Thursday recognizing that the Bureau of Land Management needs to address the burros.” According to BLM spokesman Jayson Barangan, “the bureau needs to conduct an environmental analysis before taking any action.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (1/22, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, 283K), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (1/22, 960K).

TWO BLM MASCOTS ANALYZED. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (1/25, 74K) reports on the BLM mascots Johnny Horizon and Seymour. According to the article, “forty years ago, then-BLM mascot Johnny Horizon was a fairly well-known presence; With his cowboy hat and rugged good looks, Johnny inspired a nationwide litter-cleanup campaign and all manner of consumer goods before quietly retiring in the late ‘70s.” Then, “Seymour emerged in 2008, when BLM New Mexico adopted him as a local mascot,” and “in 2010, the agency made the ungulate the face of its youth programs nationwide — the closest thing to a mascot that it now has.”

RESIDENTS FLOAT PLAN TO REOPEN SPRING CLOSED BY BLM. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (1/24, 403K) reports that “more than two years have passed since the Bureau of Land Management closed the popular, spring-fed pools at the Ash Springs Recreation Site amid concerns about visitor safety and environmental damage.” Now, “a group of area residents is floating a detailed plan — complete with 3-D renderings — to develop and reopen the site as public park and swimming area.” The Friends of Pahrangat Valley “met monthly for more than a year to develop their proposal, which includes four man-made soaking pools next to a fenced natural area where swimming would be prohibited to protect native plants and endangered fish 100 miles north of Las Vegas near the town of Alamo.”

COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN WISTERIA CASE. The [Florida Keys Citizen](#) (1/24, 33K) reports that “attorneys will return to federal court Wednesday to make arguments on who owns Wisteria Island.” F.E.B. Corp., “which had been trying to develop Wisteria Island off Key West for years, appealed a federal judge’s ruling in 2015 that dismissed the group’s lawsuit filed to establish ownership.” Judge Jose Martinez “did not rule on ownership of the roughly 22-acre island in Key West Harbor, but instead dismissed the case citing that the statute of limitations had run out in 1963 and the court no longer had jurisdiction in the case.” The holding meant that the BLM’s “2011 claim the federal government owns the land remains in place.”

BLM TWIN FALLS DISTRICT TO HOST OPEN HOUSE. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (1/24, 81K) reports that the Twin Falls District BLM is “hosting an open house from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday at its new office building, 2878 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls.” The article notes that “last fall, 60 BLM staff members from the Jarbidge

Field Office, Twin Falls Fire and Twin Falls District moved into the new building.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE SIGNS UPDATED NATIVE AMERICAN POLICY. [AmmoLand](#) (1/24, 7K) reports that Native American leaders and FWS officials “gathered on Wednesday, January 20th, to recognize new measures to strengthen the agency’s 20-year-old policy guiding government-to-government relations between tribes and the agency.” FWS Director Dan Ashe signed the updated Native American Policy (NAP) during a Washington, D.C., ceremony attended by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Michael Bean and numerous tribal representatives.” Ashe said, “To be good stewards of our planet and its remarkable natural history for future generations, we must work effectively across shared landscapes. We can only do that as a nation by working collaboratively with Native American Tribes. The Fish and Wildlife Service’s newly updated Native American Policy will foster and nurture relationships with Tribes and honor the mutual trust of guardianship we hold for decades to come.”

FWS TO END ULTRALIGHT-LED WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATION. The [AP](#) (1/24, 2.15M) reports that the FWS said “it will stop supporting the use of ultralight aircraft to help young whooping cranes migrate from Wisconsin to Florida each fall.” Officials announced Friday that “this season’s ultralight-guided flights to the birds’ winter home will be the last.” Pete Fasbender, a field office supervisor of the FWS, said, “The real short answer is that we felt that this was in the best interest of the birds.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/24, Press, 7.78M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (1/24, 1.15M), the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (1/24, 844K), the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (1/23, Bergquist, 691K), [ABC News](#) (1/24, 3.35M), [Fox News](#) (1/24, 9.42M), and the [Daily Mail](#) (1/24, 5.31M).

RECOVERY PLAN FOR MEXICAN WOLVES MARKED BY CONTROVERSY. The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (1/24, 35K) reports that “the purely scientific focus of the annual Mexican gray wolf count stands in contrast to the longstanding, constantly churning and politically charged debate about the effort to recover the species.” In recent months, the FWS has “restarted work on a recovery plan for the Mexican wolves that it expects to finish by the end of 2017.” The agency is “starting to hold workshops for scientists and representatives of local, state, federal and tribal agencies to restart work on a Mexican wolf recovery plan, but environmental groups have railed against what they say are the ‘closed door meetings.’”

Meanwhile, [KNAU-FM](#) Flagstaff, AZ (1/24, 1K) reports that “four endangered Mexican gray wolves were found dead last December in Arizona and New Mexico.”

In an op-ed for the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (1/24, 87K), Jonathan Proctor, the Rockies and Plains program director in Denver for Defenders of Wildlife, writes that “too much time has passed since any productive steps toward Mexican gray wolf recovery have been taken, and time is not on the Mexican gray wolf’s side.” He criticizes the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for opposing “any possible move by the federal government to introduce endangered Mexican gray wolves to the state.”

THREE ZOOS RECEIVE PERMISSION IMPORT NEW ELEPHANTS FROM AFRICA. The [AP](#) (1/22, 2.15M) reports that “zoos in Kansas, Nebraska and Texas have received federal approval to bring in new elephants from Africa.” According to the article, “the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas, the Dallas Zoo in Texas and the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Omaha, Nebraska, were part of the joint application.”

The [AP](#) (1/23, 2.15M) reports that “legal challenges from animal rights groups could delay plans to bring elephants from southern Africa to the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium in Omaha.” Animal-rights groups claim “the exchange is a commercial transaction forbidden by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (1/24, 257K).

CRITICAL HABITAT IDENTIFIED FOR TWO ENDANGERED FLORIDA CACTI. The [AP](#) (1/25, 620K) reports that “federal officials have designated over 7,800 acres as critical habitat for two endangered Florida cacti.” Cindy Dohner of the FWS says “identifying critical habitat in six counties is essential to conserving the Florida semaphore cactus and the aboriginal prickly-apple.”

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TO SURVEY SPOTTED OWLS BEFORE CHOPPING DOWN

DISEASED OAKS. The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (1/24, 66K) reports that “as the Marin Municipal Water District looks to fell trees afflicted with sudden oak death, it will seek to protect federally-endangered northern spotted owls that dot its watershed.” According to the article, “a large die-off of native tanoak and live oak trees in water district lands has increased fire danger as the vegetation with the disease dies and dries.” The district “plans to remove diseased trees near the Bolinas Ridge, but it is mindful of the endangered avian neighbors that might be in the area.”

STUDY SHOWS CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS SNOWSHOE HARES. [Science Daily](#) (1/24, 59K) reports that “snowshoe hares that camouflage themselves by changing their coats from brown in summer to white in winter face serious threats from climate change, and it’s uncertain whether hare populations will be able to adapt in time, according to a North Carolina State University study.” According to the article, “based on field research with radio-collared snowshoe hares in Montana, mismatched snowshoe hares suffer a 7 percent drop in their weekly survival rate when snow comes late or leaves early and white hares stand out to predators like ‘light bulbs’ against their snowless backgrounds.”

FLORIDA WILDLIFE OFFICIALS URGE PUBLIC TO STAY AWAY FROM MIGRATING BIRDS. The [AP](#) (1/23, 2.15M) reports that “Florida wildlife officials are calling on boaters and pet owners to keep their distance from migratory birds roosting at Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge and other coastal areas.” The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said “boaters and others should stay at least 300 feet away from roosting birds, and should not anchor near them.”

WSJOURNAL: OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WILLING TO BREAK ESA RULES TO FURTHER CLIMATE PROGRAM. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that the EPA and the Obama Administration seem willing to skirt the Endangers Species Act plan to close down two coal power plants that are the primary warm-water refuges for manatees without consulting the Fish & Wildlife or the National Marine Fisheries Service, which are required by the Endangers Species Act. The Journal says the Administration is willing to risk a legal rebuke on manatees on the assumption that the proper climate policies will be in place by the time a court can dismantle this move.

National Park Service:

NPS CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL THIS YEAR. [NBC News](#) (1/24, 3.32M) reports that the NPS’ “official birthday is Aug. 25, but the festivities already are underway in many of the nation’s 407 parks.” The article provides “a round-up of some events that may be worth building a vacation or side-trip around.”

The [Montgomery \(PA\) News](#) (1/24, 111K) reports that “America the Beautiful will take center stage at the Philadelphia Horticultural Society’s 2016 Philadelphia Flower Show, celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service with this year’s theme, ‘Explore America.’”

Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (1/24) and [KDLG-AM](#) Dillingham, AK (1/24).

RESTORATION PLANS FOR PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT TO RAMP UP. The [AP](#) (1/23, 2.15M) reports that “officials say restoration plans will soon pick up speed at Chicago’s Pullman neighborhood, which is approaching the anniversary of its designation as a national monument.” The NPS and “several partners will gather in Pullman National Monument’s temporary visitor center to talk about its future Feb. 19, the monument’s anniversary.” For now, the NPS has “put its banner on the visitor center it shares with the Historic Pullman Foundation, and a cafe has opened in the historic district.” Lynn McClure, Midwest regional director of the National Parks Conservation Association, said, “The real action or change will start in the spring, and that change is happening over the next one to five years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/23, 283K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (1/24, 758K), and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (1/24, 1.15M).

NPS CLOSING NATIONAL MALL AHEAD OF BIG STORM. The [AP](#) (1/22, 2.15M) reports that the NPS says “the National Mall in Washington will be closed all weekend due to an approaching winter storm.” The NPS said in a statement that “the mall and related memorials will be closed from noon Friday at least through Sunday.” The NPS says “crews will work around the clock throughout the storm to clear roads, parking lots and walkways around the memorials, and sidewalks.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (1/22, Press, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (1/22, 283K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (1/24, 276K).

NPS SAYS S.S. BADGER HISTORIC DESIGNATION STILL PENDING. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (1/22, 921K) reports that "National Historic Landmark status is actually still under review for the S.S. Badger car ferry, the National Park Service said Friday." The NPS said "inaccurate information related to the S.S. Badger was mistakenly posted to the National Historic Landmarks Program Facebook page on Thursday."

Additional coverage was provided by the [MLive \(MI\)](#) (1/24, 698K).

PATERSON MAYOR DENIES REQUEST BY NPS TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS NEAR GREAT FALLS. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (1/24, 77K) reports that Paterson Mayor Joey Torres on Friday rejected a request by the NPS "to stop construction of the Vista condominium project overlooking the Great Falls, choosing to move forward with development of high-density housing that many fear will destroy of the view of the centerpiece of the national park." Torres said "he has neither the authority nor the desire to stop the project, given that housing has always surrounded the Great Falls and the city is starved for ratables." The NPS, "in a letter sent to Torres on Thursday, said the 156-unit condo project being built on a cliff overlooking the Great Falls poses a 'significant threat' to the national park and the surrounding historic district, but the mayor wasn't swayed."

OFFICIALS LOOK INTO CHINOOK BURIAL SITE DIG. The [AP](#) (1/22, 283K) reports that "Washington State and tribal officials are investigating after the Pacific County Public Utilities District dug in an area that is known as a Chinook Indian burial site." According to the article, "the utility district replaced two failing power poles inside Lewis and Clark National Historical Park." Park Superintendent Scott Tucker says "the utility district did not contact the Chinook Indian Nation or the National Park Service before doing the work."

FORMER SITKA PARK SUPERINTENDENT FILES DISCRIMINATION SUIT. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (1/24, 16K) reports that "Mary Miller, former superintendent of Sitka National Historical Park, filed a lawsuit last week in U.S. District Court, alleging gender and race discrimination in the federal government workplace." The lawsuit arrives "in the wake of Miller's termination by the National Park Service, effective Dec. 31, 2015, in accordance with a Sept. 2 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals." According to the article, "Miller was head of the park from 2008 until 2010 when the National Park Service reassigned her to a new position as Alaska Native Affairs Liaison in Anchorage." But "Miller refused to accept the new assignment and was fired."

OP-ED: MYSTIC SEAPORT IGNORES THE SABINO. In an op-ed for the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (1/24, 77K) Dick Lotz stated the needs of the Sabino, "the country's last and only wood, coal-fired certified passenger steamer in regular service," will be ignored and the ship will be docked. According to Lotz, this will be a great loss of what Steve White, Mystic Seaport president, called "a unique technological artifact of maritime history and culture."

NORTHBOUND LANES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKWAY CLOSED. The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Weil, 7.78M) reports that "the northbound lanes of the George Washington Parkway were closed from Spout Run to Interstate 495 in Virginia, the National Park Service said." The NPS said "the closures would last at least through noon."

MISSING HIKER FOUND DEAD IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (1/22, 283K) reports that "searchers have found the body of a hiker who was reported overdue from a mountaineering trek in the area of Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park." According to park spokeswoman Kyle Patterson, "58-year-old Ronald Webber, of Maitland, Florida, was found dead at the bottom of a cliff Friday."

OPINION: THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRESERVE OUR PAST AND FUTURE. An opinion for the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (1/24) stated that the National Park Service is important because it "there to remind us of our past and future." According to the opinion, the National Park Service preserves "monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House."

OP-ED: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK RAISES CONCERN. An op-ed for the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (1/24, 89K) discussed a Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General report accusing "male employees at Grand Canyon National Park of sexual harassing female colleagues on river trips." Since 2013, "a dozen employees have been reprimanded or punished for sexual misconduct since 2003 — including one person who was terminated." According to the op-ed, the National Park

Service officially has a zero tolerance policy toward sexual misconduct, but unofficially, it is indifferent.

PROTECTING HISTORIC VIEWSHED ON WASHINGTON AVENUE MALL IS ESSENTIAL. The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (1/24, Gaske, 93K) reported that tree planting will “obstruct the public views of historic monuments and homes” of the Washington Avenue historic district in Fredericksburg which was added to the National Register of Historic places by the US Department of Interior and described as “a series of grassy medians” and memorials that are “sited to take advantage of sight lines and topography.”

YOSEMITE CONCESSIONAIRE CLAIMS TRADEMARKS. Len Boselovic writes at the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (1/25, 552K) that “Delaware North, the \$3 billion family-owned company that runs concessions at Yosemite National Park, wants to make one thing clear: it takes its stewardship of one of America’s most popular national parks very seriously. So seriously that it trademarked the phrase, ‘Yosemite National Park.’” Meanwhile, he says that the National Park Service “recently announced it was changing the names of five Yosemite facilities in order to prevent Aramark, the company that will succeed Delaware North as concessionaire on March 1, from being hit with potential trademark infringement lawsuits after it takes over.” Boselovic says that there is an ongoing legal dispute between Delaware North and NPS. He concludes by pointing out that “the park service seems to have learned one lesson,” because “its Jan. 4 filing indicates Aramark’s contract requires Yosemite’s new concessionaire to turn over all trademarks it acquired from Delaware North when the contract expires or is terminated.”

Top National News:

IN TV INTERVIEW, OBAMA REFLECTS ON PRESIDENCY. Media coverage of the President’s interview with CBS, which aired Sunday morning, is notably light. The three network news broadcasts did not cover the interview, and print and online coverage are limited. Most reports focus on quotes from the President and provide little characterization of his tone. One exception is the [New York Daily News](#) (1/24, Greene, 3.59M), which describes the President as “reflective.” A transcript of the interview is posted on the [CBS News](#) website.

The AP (1/24) reports the President said he “wouldn’t run for a third term even if he could,” adding the “presidency takes a toll on family life, and the office ‘should be continually renewed by new energy and new ideas.’” The President said, “This is a big sacrifice and a great privilege but it takes a toll on family life. This is a process in which the office should be continually renewed by new energy and new ideas and new insights. And although I think I am as good of a president as I have ever been right now, I also think that there comes a point where you don’t have fresh legs. And, you know, that’s when you start making mistakes. Or that’s when you start thinking that you are what’s important as opposed to the mission being more important.”

The President “said he will be content with his tenure as president when he leaves office next year,” [The Hill](#) (1/24, Laing, 654K) reported, noting that he told CBS, “When I turn over the keys to the next occupant – one thing I’m confident about, and maybe why I don’t feel obliged to yearn for a third term, is I’m very confident I’ll be able to say that things are a lot better now than they were when I came into office. ... And, you know, that’s a pretty good eight years’ worth of work.” The President, [The Hill](#) added, “is not worried about Republicans undoing things he accomplished during his eight years in office if they win the White House later this year.” The President said, “Well, you think about that. But...what you discover when you’re president is that the institutions and programs and things that you have put in place and built– if you’ve done a good job and you’ve done them sensibly– you know, in some cases may need tinkering with. Can be improved. But if they’re good things, they’re harder to undo than you think.”

Obama Touts Success Of Auto Industry Bailout. The [New York Daily News](#) (1/24, Greene, 3.59M) describes the President as “reflective,” as he “spoke to CBS in Detroit, on one of the first legs of a yearlong victory lap last week.” [CBS’ Sunday Morning](#) (1/24, 4.62M) reported the President “has been struggling to communicate his successes heading into his last year in office, and the US auto industry is one example” as both GM and Chrysler “had record sales last year, a resurgence Mr. Obama says was the result of the government bailout during the first year of his administration.” CBS added the bailout “wasn’t a popular idea. Critics thought the new president was over reaching, even cocky. But in hindsight, he says, that’s just what the economic crisis demanded.” Obama: “I might have benefited from being young and a little brash and not being as scared as I probably should have been. You know, there was probably some benefit to me thinking, we can fix this. And, you know, we’ll figure it out.”

Obama Laments “Continued Polarization” In Washington. [The Hill](#) (1/24, Laing, 654K) noted the President cited “his inability to reduce polarization between the political parties in Washington” as something that “gnaws’

on him as he settles into his final year in office." The Hill quoted the President as [saying](#) (1/24, 4.62M), "The one thing that gnaws on me – is the degree of – continued polarization. ... It's gotten worse – over the last several years. ... And I think that in those early months my expectation was is that – we could pull – the parties together a little more effectively." [ABC News](#) (1/24, 3.35M) reported on its website the President [said](#) (1/24, 4.62M) "there 'absolutely' are days when he wonders why he ever ran for the presidency, saying there are times when he gets 'tired' and 'frustrated,'" adding, "And yet, there has not been a day that I have not walked into the Oval Office and understood that at no point in my life will I ever have the chance to do as much good and make as much of a difference in the lives of people as I do right now."

Obama Says His View Of Anti-Terror Fight Has Changed. The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (1/24, 740K) reports the President "acknowledges that his view of fighting terrorism has changed." While as a candidate he criticized the Administration of President George W. Bush, he said "he sees things differently after serving as president," [telling](#) (1/24, 4.62M) CBS, "There are a bunch of things that we do to fight terrorism that before I was president I might have questioned, that when I look at it really carefully I say, you know, 'On balance this is – this is something that we need to do – to keep us safe.'"

Obama: Race Relations Better Now Than After Rodney King Verdict. The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (1/24, 740K) also says the President took issue with critics who say "race relations are worse now after seven years of his presidency." The President [told](#) (1/24, 4.62M) CBS, "When I hear people say, for example, in the aftermath of Ferguson and some of the other cases, that race relations have deteriorated, they're terrible, I have to say – well, maybe it's just 'cause I'm gettin' older – but they're not worse than they were after the Rodney King incident in L.A. ... They're certainly not worse than they were back in the '50s or the '60s. But we forget."

WSJOURNAL ANALYSIS: TOO SOON FOR NBER TO DECLARE US HEADING TO RECESSION. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Zumbun, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) analysis considers whether declines in industrial production, corporate profits, and the stock market are warning signs of a coming recession, as they were with every previous recession since World War II. The National Bureau of Economic Research will make the determination on whether the US has entered a recession, and the Journal says it is too soon for the Bureau to make a declaration. In his [Washington Post](#) (1/24, Samuelson, 7.78M) column, Robert Samuelson writes that despite the "severity" of the sell-off, "many economists doubt it heralds a recession," adding, however, that there is "a less reassuring interpretation: The global stock sell-off may reflect gloomy prospects for 'emerging-market' economies," which would mean "the worldwide sell-off of stocks represents a logical response to reduced economic prospects."

Analysts Predict Lower Fourth-Quarter Adjusted Earnings. Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (1/24, Krantz, 5.56M) reports that with more than 130 companies on the S&P 500 set to report their fourth-quarter earnings this week, investors are bracing for "a disappointing quarter for profit." According to S&P Capital IQ, analysts predict S&P 500 companies will report "5.9% lower fourth-quarter adjusted earnings," which would mark "the second straight quarterly profit decline since adjusted profit fell 1.4% in the third quarter." As stocks "are off to one of their worst starts in history," this earnings season "will be one of the first chances for investors to get corporate data on whether the recent stock market woes are rooted in earnings and revenue problems, or if it's just speculators causing noise."

A separate [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Eisen, Strumpf, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) analysis says that while there are signs the bull market for US stocks is coming to an end, some investors believe this is the time to buy stocks impacted by the recent sell off and some portfolio managers believe the rebound from lows Wednesday were the bottom of the current round of losses. That said, few anticipate the Dow and S&P 500 will soon return to the records set in May, even if the US and global economies do not fall into recession. [USA Today](#) (1/24, Shell, 5.56M) says the rally at the end of last week was "welcomed and much-needed," it "wasn't enough for still-shaken bulls to go out on a limb and send a definitive all-clear signal." Professional investors "expressed relief that the bloodletting had finally stopped," but "cautious optimism was the message of the market at the upbeat end to another volatile week on Wall Street."

HOUSE POSTPONES VOTES DUE TO SNOWSTORM. The AP (1/24) reports that in the wake of the snowstorm that has "socked in the nation's capital," the House has postponed votes this week, "including one on overriding President Barack Obama's health care veto." According to Majority Leader McCarthy's office, the House "won't be holding votes on Tuesday or Wednesday because of the storm and how it's affected travel." The override vote of the President's veto on the GOP-backed ACA Repeal legislation "is now expected during the week of Feb. 1."

Climatologist: Extreme Weather Not Evidence Of Global Warming. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24,

Subscription Publication, 6.23M) op-ed, Patrick Michaels, a climatologist and director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, dismisses claims the East Coast blizzard, rising global temperatures, flooding in the desert Southwest, and California's drought are evidence of the effects of global warming. Michaels says 2015 posted the highest average surface temperature on record due to the large El Niño which emerged early in the year, causing releasing large amounts of heat and causing spikes in the surface temperature.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Drug Deaths Reach White America." The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) in an editorial says that "drug overdose deaths currently ravaging white populations in cities and towns across the country" have led political leaders to conclude addiction "can be best addressed with treatment," and that realization "is driving bipartisan support in Washington for saner, less punitive drug policies." The paper endorses the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which it calls "a rational approach to drug policy."

"Ending The Horror Of Myanmar's Abuse Of Muslims." The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), in an editorial says that Burma's president, Thein Sein, "oversaw the systematic persecution of the country's Rohingya Muslim minority," while Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has "remained stubbornly silent on the fate of the Rohingya." The Times says that "Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi and her party must move swiftly to redress discrimination against Myanmar's Muslims and to end the Rohingya's terrible plight."

"New York City's Promising Step On Criminal Justice." The [New York Times](#) (1/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes in favor of "a package of bills" to be considered by the New York City Council which it says "could be a step toward a fairer and smarter criminal justice system." One change would be to make "quality of life offenses" subject to "civil summonses, not criminal charges." Another would be "new public data-reporting requirements."

WASHINGTON POST. "Immigration In Reverse." A [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 7.78M) editorial says new surveys from the Pew Research Center and the Center for Migration Studies show that the number of illegal immigrants in the US has declined by nearly one million from 2014 to 2007. The latter organization estimates only 10.9 illegal immigrants remain, the lowest level since 2003. The Post says Republican rhetoric "consumed by alarmist rhetoric about border security" has not yet "caught up to those numbers, nor to the reality that the U.S. economy, like other Western economies, cannot function without low-wage, low-skill labor, which Mexico has supplied."

"Iran's Appalling Treatment Of Journalists Has Not Ended." A [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 7.78M) editorial cautions that even after the nuclear deal, Iran "remains a world leader in the imprisonment and abuse of journalists," noting that "at least 19 other reporters, cartoonists and editors are still being held." The Post argues, "We'll know that Iran has really begun to change when the brave journalists still in prison are freed."

"Traffic Hypocrisy In Richmond." The [Washington Post](#) (1/24, 7.78M) reports the Northern Virginia lawmakers would be ill-advised to eliminate tolls on I-66 because it would "deprive the state of tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in projected revenue" to pay for building more lanes inside and outside the beltway, while also killing funding "for an array of other transit improvements designed to divert traffic by enhancing commuters' options."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Bloomberg View." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says in an editorial that Michael Bloomberg decided against independent bids in both 2008 and 2012 after deciding he could not win, so he would not be exploring the race if he did not see a chance at victory. The Journal says that in this most unpredictable political year, his candidacy could gain traction, though it is not clear if he could win 270 electoral votes.

"Obama vs. Manatees." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that the EPA and the Obama Administration plan to close down two coal power plants that are the primary warm-water refuges for manatees without consulting the Fish & Wildlife or the National Marine Fisheries Service, a requirement of the Endangered Species Act. The Journal says the Administration is willing to risk a legal rebuke on manatees on the assumption that the proper climate policies will be in place by the time a court can dismantle this move.

"West Virginia's Right To Work." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/24, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that the West Virginia state House is likely to pass a right-to-work law, and though Democratic Gov. Earl Ray

Tomblin may veto the bill, the veto can be overridden by a simple majority of both houses. Republicans got help on Friday when the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals ruled that the GOP could fill a vacant seat in the closely-contested Senate. The Journal says that with the Administration's attempts to kill the coal industry, right-to-work would help the desperate state.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

- Flood Of GOP Money Wasted On Ads
- 3 Still On Run After OC Jail Escape
- All Is Not Well
- A Place Stranger Than Crime Fiction
- India Reins In Surrogacy Services For Foreigners

Wall Street Journal:

- Johnson Controls In Advanced Talks To Combine With Tyco
- Behind Donald Trump's Attack Strategy
- Time To Say Goodbye To Long Bull Market?
- Russian Oil: Output Grows As Prospects Shrink

New York Times:

- Hillary Clinton And Bernie Sanders Battle For Party's Future
- Italy Divided Over Effort To Legalize Civil Unions For Gays
- East Coast Blizzard Ends But A Long Cleanup Begins
- Donald Trump Means Business In Iowa: Night In Motel, And A Day In Church
- Massachusetts Chief's Tack In Drug War: Steer Addicts To Rehab, Not Jail
- Match-Fixing Suspicions Raised At Australian Open After Site Stops Bets On Match
- Broncos' Defense Bruises Tom Brady, Lifting Peyton Manning To Super Bowl

Washington Post:

- Voter-ID Law Goes To Trial In N. Carolina
- Korean Web Addicts Are Shipped To Reboot Camp
- Marco Rubio's Cold War
- 'Extremely Limited' Service For Metro
- Snowzilla Is Done With Us, But Now The Shoveling Begins

Washington Times:

- "Jihadi John" Leaves Lessons For Western Intelligence
- Winter Wallop
- Federal Overhaul Of Background Checks Still Leaves Out Social Media
- Clinton Solidifies Her Position On Abortion
- Social Conservatives Warn Against Kasich

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

- ABC:** Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas-Travel; Winter Storm Jonas-Driving; Winter Storm Jonas-Flooding; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Poll Numbers; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; Professional Fraud Victim Profile; Alaska Earthquake; NFL-AFC Championship Game.
- CBS:** Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas-Snow Totals; Winter Storm Jonas-Flooding; 2016 Politics; 2016 Politics-Poll Numbers; Canada-Public Shooting; Alaska Earthquake; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; Airline Pricing.
- NBC:** Winter Storm Jonas; Winter Storm Jonas-Flooding; Winter Storm Jonas-Travel; Weather Forecast; 2016 Politics-Iowa Caucus; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; Sweden-Cash Free Goals; Alaska Earthquake.

Network TV At A Glance:

- Winter Storm Jonas – 23 minutes, 00 seconds
- 2016 Politics – 9 minutes, 20 seconds
- California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
- Alaska Earthquake – 1 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Winter Storm Jonas-Cleanup; Winter Storm Jonas-Air Travel; NFL Playoffs-Conference Results; HPV-Cancer Rates; International Markets.
CBS: Winter Storm Jonas-Cleanup; Winter Storm Jonas-Snow Totals; 2016 Politics-Poll Numbers; California-Escaped Prisoners Manhunt; NFL Playoffs-Conference Results; Asian Financial Markets.
NPR: Winter Storm Jonas-Air Travel; Winter Storm Jonas-Power Outages; Alaska Earthquake-Gas Explosion; Asian Stocks; Greek Islands-Syrian Refugees; Oil Prices; NFL Playoffs-Conference Results.
FOX: NFL Playoff-NFC Championships Game; Winter Storm Jonas-DC Mayor; Winter Storm Jonas-Deaths; American Airlines Flight-Severe Turbulence; 2016 Politics-Potential Bloomberg Run.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Visits Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and wounded service members being treated at the facility.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled public events.

US Senate: 10:30 AM POSTPONED: Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing on opioid abuse among older Americans – POSTPONED: Field hearing on 'Fighting Against a Growing Epidemic: Opioid Misuse and Abuse Among Older Americans', with witnesses including Attorney General of Virginia Mark Herring, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Family Medicine and Population Health Assistant Professor Katherine Neuhausen, Virginia Change Addiction Now Acting State Director Lisa Wilkins, National Safety Counsel Director of Jane Terry, and Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Office of Substance Abuse Services Director Mellie Randall Location: 21170 Ashby Ponds Blvd., Ashburn, VA
<http://aging.senate.gov/>

3:30 PM Pew Charitable Trust / C-TAC Congressional briefing on end-of-life care – Pew Charitable Trusts / Coalition to Transform Advanced Care Congressional briefing on 'Improving Serious Illness and End-of-Life Care: Opportunities for Congressional Action', with speakers including Democratic Sen. Mark Warner, Republican Rep. Phil Roe, AARP President-elect Eric Schneiderman, Priority Health Managed Benefits Chief Medical Officer Jay LaBine, American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Chief Medical Officer Joe Rotella, Pew Charitable Trusts Senior Director of Health Programs Allan Coukell and Improving End-of-Life Care Project Director Lee Goldberg, Marian Grant (University of Maryland Medical Center Palliative Care Service), and Tom Koutsoumpas (C-TAC) Location: Rm 485 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC
www.pewtrusts.org <https://twitter.com/pewtrusts>

US House: :00 PM House meets for pro forma session – House of Representatives meets for pro forma session, with no votes expected due to inclement weather * First votes of the week are expected tomorrow as the House returns after Martin Luther King Day District Work Period Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM POSTPONED: House Commerce Committee holds roundtable on concussions – POSTPONED: House Energy and Commerce Committee commences its review of the causes, effects, and treatments of concussions and other head trauma with a roundtable discussion, bringing together experts from the medical, military, athletic, and research communities Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

POSTPONED: Hearing on 'H.R. 3442, the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2015' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:00 AM WGR Congressional Breakfast Series event with Senate Leadership Energy and Environment Staff – Women in Government Relations (WGR) Energy, Environment & Agriculture Task Force Congressional Breakfast Series event with Policy Advisor for Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, Neil Chatterjee and Senior Policy Advisor for Democratic Sen. Harry Reid Location: Office of the American Gas Association, 400 N Capitol St., NW, Washington, DC <http://www.wgr.org> <https://twitter.com/WGRDC>

9:00 AM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee State of the Net 2016 conference – Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee State of the Net 2016 conference. Speakers include Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Democratic Sen. Al Franken, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Director Michelle Lee, Deputy

Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu, Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Terrell McSweeney, House Committee on the Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information Lamy Strickling, Engine Advocacy's Julie Samuels, Access Now's Amie Stepanovich, Cisco Systems' Alissa Cooper, Georgetown University Center on Privacy & Technology's Alvaro Bedoya, Internet Jurisdiction Project Bertrand de la Chappelle, Etsy CEO Chad Dickerson, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation's Jeffrey Farrah, Fusion's Kashmir Hill, Freedom House's Sanja Kelly, and ICANN's Greg Shatan Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.stateofthenet.org
<https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC>

9:30 AM USAID Administrator hosts discussion on the 'The Future and Potential of African Energy and Power' – U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Gayle Smith hosts a discussion on 'The Future and Potential of African Energy and Power Africa Road Map Launch', with United States National Security Advisor Ambassador Susan Rice, Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina and Power Africa Coordinator Andrew Herscowitz Location: White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.usaid.gov> <https://twitter.com/USAID>

11:00 AM EESI briefing series on the Clean Power Plan begins – Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing on 'Environmental Justice in the Clean Power Plan' – the first in a series on the topic – featuring Environmental Protection Agency Administrator's Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice Mustafa Ali, GreenLatinos President Mark Magana, and Skeo Solutions Senior Associate Vernice Miller-Travis Location: Rm 2168, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.eesi.org <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

2:00 PM NSF Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences lecture series continues – National Science Foundation Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences 2015-2016 distinguished lecture series continues with University of Michigan's Susan Murphy discussing 'Sequential Decision Making and Personalized Interventions: The Future is Now' * Lecture co-sponsored by NSF Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering and NSF Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Location: NSF, 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA Arlington <http://www.nsf.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NSF>

3:00 PM U.S. Chamber CCMC co-hosts 'Capitalism in the 21st Century' event – 'Capitalism in the 21st Century' event, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, K&L Gates and The Washington Times Insights Club, featuring panels on the emerging role of corporate officers and directors as well as financial regulatory reforms. Speakers include Republican Rep. Bill Huizenga, CCMC Senior Vice President Tom Quaadman, CCMC Director Andres Gil; Dimont President and CEO Denis Brosnan, and Better Markets President and CEO Dennis Kelleher Location: K&L Gates, 1601 K St. NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Lindsey Graham criticized Donald Trump and Ted Cruz and said choosing between them is like having to choose between being shot or poisoned. Graham is supporting Jeb Bush, which he said is like choosing to be slowly suffocated by an expensive pillow."

Jimmy Fallon: "Someone found lyrics to a song written about Donald Trump's father, and Donald was like, 'Big deal. Pink Floyd did an entire album about me called "The Wall," and I made them pay for it.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In a People magazine profile, Bernie Sanders revealed he proposed to his wife in a Friendly's parking lot. A lot of the other candidates have come up with interesting stories about how they got engaged as well. Donald Trump said, 'I got down on one knee and told Melania, "You're hot, I'm rich. Let's do this.'"

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government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

potential invite for Hawaii announcement

1 message

Dixon, Vicki <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 2:25 PM

To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

John,

As discussed in today's meeting - I found out the Brand USA is not scheduled to meet next week - they just met last week. Roy Yamaguchi, Brand USA Board Member is not scheduled to be in DC at the moment - but see Aaron Wodin-Schwartz's email below with Roy's contact information. Maybe we find a way to include Brand USA in future announcements to attract international visitors.

Thank you.

Vicki

Vicki,

Congratulations on the announcement of all three new national monuments today. In the past we've sometimes been able to use the announcement as a nice hook on social to highlight the places to international travelers. If there's a way to start working on the communications in advance of the announcements we could be even more coordinated and increase the reach of the great news. Another topic though.

Roy's assistant is Robbyn Shim (b) (6). You should reach out to her to give her a heads-up and get the correct mailing address.

Best,

Aaron

-

Vicki Dixon

Vicki Dixon

Office of the Secretary - Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Department of the Interior

202.208.7461 - Office

202.208.1821 - Fax

vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 5:40 PM

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

From: Meghan Kissell [mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 5:40 PM

To: John Blair

Subject: RE: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Hi John,

One more batch of press releases on the Browns Canyon designation. Folks were extremely happy with the President's remarks this afternoon and with the joint USDA/DOI statement that mentioned the National Conservation Lands.

- American Whitewater
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>
- The Conservation Alliance
<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>
- HECHO - Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors
<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>
- Small Business Majority
<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>
- Trout Unlimited
<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>
- Vet Voice Foundation
<http://www.vetvoicefoundation.org/press/veterans-thank-you-for-making-browns-canyon-a-national-monument>

Thanks,

Meghan

From: Meghan Kissell [mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 6:09 PM
To: 'John Blair'
Subject: RE: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Hi John,

A few(!) more press releases on the monument announcements today:

- Center for Western Priorities
<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>
- Conservation Colorado (attached)
- Creation Justice Ministries http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf
- Environmental Learning for Kids (attached)
- Hispanic Access Foundation (attached)
- JCCH and JAHL Honolulu (attached)
- League of Conservation Voters
<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) (attached)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>
- National Parks Conservation Association
<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

- National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

- Pew Charitable Trusts (attached)
- Sierra Club Colorado (attached)

- Sierra Club

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

- Sportsmen for Browns Canyon (attached)

- The Wilderness Society

<http://wilderness.org/press-release/wilderness-society-statement-creation-browns-canyon-honouliuli-and-pullman-national>

Meghan

From: John Blair [mailto:john_blair@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:12 AM
To: Meghan Kissell
Subject: RE: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Thanks, Meghan!! Exciting news!!

From: Meghan Kissell [<mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:07 AM
To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Browns Canyon NM designation press releases

Hi John,

Wonderful news this morning. I just wanted to make sure you saw the press releases from both the Friends of Browns Canyon and the Conservation Lands Foundation. I'm sure there will be more throughout the day.

Kind regards,

Meghan

Meghan Kissell

National Monuments Campaign Communications Director

Conservation Lands Foundation

202-429-8447 - office

571-643-3526 - cell

www.conservationlands.org



Conservation
Lands
Foundation

Protecting America's Heritage



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:35 AM

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

From: Andrea Keller Helsel [mailto:andrea@wcfnd.org]

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 7:50 AM

To: Buffa, Nicole; John Blair

Subject: FYI: Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Hi guys!

In case you didn't see this one yesterday:

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



February 19, 2015

For immediate release:

CONTACT:

Kelsey Bye | Media & Communications Associate
(303) 223-6335 | kbye@smallbusinessmajority.org

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he'll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority's [opinion polling](#) found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What's more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America's parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president's designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

###

About Small Business Majority

Small Business Majority is a national small business advocacy organization, founded and run by small business owners to focus on solving the biggest problems facing America's 28 million small businesses today. We actively engage small business owners to drive smart public policy and get entrepreneurs the resources they need to thrive. We conduct extensive opinion and economic research and work with our rapidly growing network of 40,000+ small business owners across the country to ensure their voices are an integral part of the public policy debate. Learn more about us on our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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If you would like to contact Meltwater Press, we can be reached at:
Meltwater Press, 50 Fremont Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94105



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Another Browns editorial

3 messages

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:32 AM

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrea Keller Helsel [mailto:andrea@wcfnd.org]

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 11:09 AM

To: Buffa, Nicole; John Blair; Barranco, Angela

Subject: FYI: Another Browns editorial

This one from the conservative Daily Sentinel editorial board...!

Editorial: Blame someone else for newest monument

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/articles/blame-someone-else-for-newest-monument>

By The Daily Sentinel

Friday, February 20, 2015

Before he was defeated in his bid for re-election, former U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., tried to get Congress to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument.

That effort failed despite support from sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts and bill language that would have protected existing uses, such as grazing.

So when President Barack Obama did with a stroke of a pen what Congress would not, he got the usual accusations of "overreach" from some Republicans, including two members of Colorado's congressional delegation.

Rep. Doug Lamborn, who represents Colorado's 5th Congressional District, said he was outraged by a "top-down, big-government land grab by the president that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon area."

Sounds like Lamborn is pandering to anti-Obama sentiments. His accusation of a "top-down" decision-making process doesn't reflect the grassroots movement that led to two Colorado politicians asking for Obama to exercise his presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.

If Lamborn is unhappy that Brown Canyon is now a national monument, he should blame sportsmen, rafters, hikers and hunters as co-conspirators.

Thousands of Coloradans have sought protection for the scenic landscape of the section of the Arkansas River that runs through the canyon. Former Sen. Wayne Allard and Congressman Joel Hefley, both Republicans, favored protecting the area.

For years, sportsmen's groups have been pushing for monument status. Supporters organized hunters and fisherman to voice their support and attend numerous public forums.

U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to designate Browns Canyon as a monument after efforts by Bennet and Udall to protect the land failed in Congress.

"I was proud to champion this decades-long, bipartisan effort alongside leaders like Congressman Joel Hefley and the people of Chaffee County," Udall said in a press release. "Thanks to the president's action, which mirrors my community-driven legislation, future generations of anglers, rafters, hikers and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy this special place along the Arkansas River as we do today."

The 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument includes important fish and wildlife habitat and some of the best whitewater rafting in the country. It's an economic driver for Colorado's \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado's \$140 million whitewater rafting industry, according to a press release from sportsmen's groups that supported the designation. Obama's action confers monument status, while protecting for existing grazing rights, access, water rights, and other uses. Where's the downside?

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:40 AM

Did you want us to include editorials as well? We haven't in the past but I can add an editorial section.

Maria Nájera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
☎ +202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:41 AM

Nah. Let's leave that to press.

From: Najera, Maria [mailto:maria_najera@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 11:41 AM
To: John Blair
Cc: Steven Avila
Subject: Re: FW: Another Browns editorial

[Quoted text hidden]



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Colorado Tourism Office already promoting Browns Canyon

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:42 AM

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Maybe include this image? Kidna cool

From: Meghan Kissell [mailto:Meghan@conservationlands.org]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 11:36 AM
To: john_blair@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Colorado Tourism Office already promoting Browns Canyon

Hi John,

One more fun piece of Browns Canyon National Monument response to share with you today. The Colorado Tourism Office has already listed Browns Canyon as a place to visit!

Meghan





Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: statement

1 message

Johnson, Terri <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 9:48 AM
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>

Below is Backcountry H&A statement that they are working with the press to get picked up.

Ter

Terri Johnson
Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-7513 | terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov

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

From: **Land Tawney** <tawney@backcountryhunters.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 10:18 PM
Subject: statement
To: "Johnson, Terri" <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

We are shopping this with reporters and are having a good response. Do you want something more official?

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation Director John Gale:

"Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families."

Land Tawney

Executive Director

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

PO Box 9257

Missoula, MT 59807

(406)370-3243

tawney@backcountryhunters.org

www.backcountryhunters.org

"I admire the man who takes the next step, not those who theorize about the 200th." Theodore Roosevelt



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Another Browns editorial

3 messages

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:32 AM

To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrea Keller Helsel [mailto:andrea@wcfnd.org]

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 11:09 AM

To: Buffa, Nicole; John Blair; Barranco, Angela

Subject: FYI: Another Browns editorial

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Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:40 AM

Did you want us to include editorials as well? We haven't in the past but I can add an editorial section.

Maria Nájera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
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maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
To: Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 11:41 AM

Nah. Let's leave that to press.

From: Najera, Maria [mailto:maria_najera@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 11:41 AM
To: John Blair
Cc: Steven Avila
Subject: Re: FW: Another Browns editorial

[Quoted text hidden]



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

External Statements - Pullman, CO, HI and Every Kid


1 message

Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Maria Najera

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 **External Statements - IL.CO.HI.EKIAP 02 19.docx**
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External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

Friday, February 20, 2015

Pullman National Monument, IL	2
Elected Officials	2
External Stakeholders	5
Twitter	9
Browns Canyon National Monument, CO	12
Elected Officials	12
External Stakeholders	15
Twitter	37
Honouliuli National Monument, HI	39
Elected Officials	39
External Stakeholders	43
Twitter	52
Every Kid in a Park	53
External Stakeholders	53
Twitter	57

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Robin Kelly (D-IL)

Durbin, Kirk, Kelly Applaud President Obama's Announcement That Pullman Historical District Will Become Part Of The National Park System

[CHICAGO, IL] — U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) today applauded President Obama's announcement that a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District will be designated as a National Monument, making it a unit of the National Park System. Durbin, Kirk, and Kelly have worked to secure national park status for the architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

"The future of America's next great urban national landmark lies in the Pullman community's storied past. As an Illinoisan, I am proud to represent this community, which has come together to share its proud legacy of labor and civil rights. And as an American, I look forward to joining visitors from across the country in exploring a new monument to this critical chapter in our national history," **Durbin** said. "I thank Senator Kirk and Representative Kelly for being my partners in this effort, and congratulate the many members of this community who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this unique landmark."

"I fought for this designation with Senator Durbin and Rep. Kelly because regardless of party, it was the right thing to do for our state. As Chicago's first national monument, the Pullman District will bring thousands of tourists to Chicagoland every year, which will help to breathe new life into our local economies," **Kirk** said. "Today I am proud that America's first industrial town founded by George Pullman is receiving the recognition it deserves as a national monument."

"Pullman National Monument will be a crown jewel of the community, a remarkable achievement made possible only through the cooperation and collaboration of leaders from the public and private sectors and the residents of the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, the history and legacy of Pullman will endure for generations to come and people from all over the country will be

encouraged to visit and learn more about the vital role Pullman played in our nation’s labor and civil rights history,” said **Kelly**.

Under this announcement, the Pullman Historic District will become a national monument bounded by 103rd Street to the north, 115th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west, and the Norfolk & Western Rail Line to the east. Initially, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers national parks and monuments, will own the Pullman Factory Complex and the land on which it sits, with the option of acquiring additional property or assets should they be made available. Establishing Pullman as a part of the National Park System will allow for greater coordination of preservation and protection efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

In August, Durbin wrote President Obama urging him to use his authority to designate a portion of Chicago’s Pullman Historic District as a unit of the National Park System. Earlier last year, Durbin, Kirk and Kelly introduced legislation to create the Pullman National Historical Park in the neighborhood’s historical district, an architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America’s railroad, industrial and labor history.

In 2014, the NPS released a study which found that Pullman was “conclusively nationally significant” as a historical site. More than 100 different organizations have endorsed the creation of a national park in Pullman, including city, county and state parks officials; preservationist groups; labor organizations; and tourism advocates. The creation of the national park site will increase jobs and boost Pullman’s economy as a result of added tourism dollars: in 2012, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than 250,000 jobs. Studies show that every dollar invested in national park operations generates ten dollars of local economic activity.

The Pullman site was originally developed by industrialist George Pullman in 1880 and was the first American industrial town. The Pullman site served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States and played an important role in African American and early Civil Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman Porters as well as the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black union. Labor Day was established as a federal holiday following the 1894 Pullman labor strike. The neighborhood is also a well-preserved example of 19th century urban planning and architecture, especially the work of Solon Spencer Beman. The area has been designated as a registered National Historic Landmark District, an Illinois State Landmark, and a City of Chicago Landmark District.

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

"These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public," stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so."

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President's announcement in Chicago.

"Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country," stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. "As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President's use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans."

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God's creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama’s plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

“These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation’s heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes,” said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. “They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument.
<http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/JklOX>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Natl Park Foundation

So grateful to everyone who made it possible for #Pullman to become a #NationalPark! Pic: @ILhistory #TBT

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502670652264448>

Robin Kelly (IL-02)

So proud to have the #Pullman Historic District become a National Monument! #IL02

<https://twitter.com/RepRobinKelly/status/568515620033003520>

Trust for Public Land

"Together we can do great things that we can't do alone. That's why I am designating #Pullman as America's newest monument." - @BarackObama

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568506656650186752

Illinois History

On big day for #Pullman, @ArgusBrewery releases "Monumental Lager." Details here: <http://ow.ly/Jl2jZ>
<http://ow.ly/i/8HWc9>

Pullman Foundation

Congratulations to the #Pullman historic district of #Chicago on becoming a #nationalmonument!
<http://bit.ly/1AadcVV> It's OFFICIAL!

<https://twitter.com/pullmanfdn/status/568507207953883136>

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration's Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

"President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone's guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations."

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado's Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado's Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

"Today's comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This monument designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado's bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won't take action to protect these deserving public lands, then the president should."

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was “outraged” by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. “It would promote tourism,” Lamborn said at the time. “There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks.”

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a “top-down, big-government land grab,” bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn’s predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, “the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape.”

3) Rep. Buck’s comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck’s inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

**Trout Unlimited
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
National Wildlife Federation**

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama’s designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

"I'm thrilled," said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. "Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy."

"Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country," said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. "It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come."

"This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen," said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. "Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery."

For years, sportsmen's groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown's important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado's \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado's \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

"Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns," said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. "Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we're committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life."

He added, "We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation."

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded
President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country’s history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O’ahu was Hawai’i’s largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that

some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County," stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. "As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

"The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon," stated former U.S. Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

###

Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why

folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

“The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

“We appreciate the President’s continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown’s Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation.”

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America's wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada's Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

“These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation’s heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes,” said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. “They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O’ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the

leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

"My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing."

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

"Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect."

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans' reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

“I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years,” said Reppenhagen. “Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price.”

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

“For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That’s why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon.”

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

“The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future.”

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

“We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It’s a place that’s meaningful to many people, and it’s an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer.”

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- **Outdoor Industry Association**

###

American Whitewater

President Obama Designates Browns Canyon National Monument – Colorado

Salida, CO – On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect over 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado’s Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. American Whitewater and community leaders applaud the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument on Thursday.

“We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon”, said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. “If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress couldn’t”

Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Along with American Whitewater and our members, local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, and county commissioners. .

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded “Gold Medal” status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

The president is using his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Browns Canyon and two other new national monuments in Illinois and Hawaii this week. The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument, but under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service and paddling will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president’s proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall’s legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

Today, after years of work, you can join us in thanking President Obama and Colorado's leaders, for Protecting Browns Canyon!

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>

###

The Conservation Alliance

Introducing Browns Canyon National Monument

On February 19, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, CO. This proclamation preserves 22,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land in Colorado and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing, whitewater boating, hiking and many other outdoor activities. It is one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the country; attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually who contribute \$60 million to the local economy. The area provides critical habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain lions.

The Conservation Alliance funded two organizations working to protect Browns Canyon: Conservation Colorado and Conservation Lands Foundation. We funded Conservation Colorado in 2006 for their effort to designate Browns Canyon as wilderness. After more than fifteen years of attempts to protect Browns Canyon via legislation, the strategy shifted to a national monument campaign. Conservation Lands Foundation, a 2014 grantee, worked with the Obama Administration to bring this national monument campaign across the finish line.

Senator Mark Udall introduced legislation last year to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument, but Congress failed to move the bill. Udall's legislation specified that paddling on the Arkansas would continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation, which followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

The Conservation Alliance applauds President Obama for designating the Browns Canyon National Monument. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support. We thank President Obama for recognizing this special place, and protecting Browns Canyon forever.

100% of our membership dues support conservation opportunities like Browns Canyon. Together, we are making a measurable impact toward protecting threatened wild places in North America.

<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>

###

HECHO

Public Process Leads to Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

HECHO joins many grateful organizations and communities in thanking President Obama for taking action to designate Browns Canyon as the newest National Monument in Colorado.

Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying the Browns Canyon area for generations. For too long, we have witnessed extractive industries such as oil, gas, and mineral development, as well as urban growth, mar the landscapes, pollute watersheds and affect the wildlife that have sustained us for generations.

The lands and waters in Browns Canyon are part of our heritage and are as treasured to us as are the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and other areas throughout the West. Its permanent protection will be a great addition to our National Monument system and will be a place that we can continue to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. As in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, traditional uses will continue and will remain part of the fabric of our culture and traditions.

This designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act is especially fulfilling for the communities that have been engaged in the extensive public input process involving diverse stakeholders such as local businesses and communities, sportsmen, faith communities, youth groups, and elected officials. Although bipartisan legislative attempts to add greater protections to the area had been unsuccessful, strong and consistent public support in partnership with the President's executive action has resulted in greater protection for the region, which is valued for its wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River.

“It was exciting to see that the final public hearing drew hundreds of people, including a large number of Latinos from Denver,” said Rod Torrez of HECHO. Browns Canyon is within easy reach of large communities along the Front Range, and as a national monument, will provide continued access for outdoor recreation, as well as protect the natural surroundings that we all enjoy.

<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>

###

Small Business Majority

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama’s designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he’ll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority’s opinion polling found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What’s more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America’s parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president’s designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>

###

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited praises creation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Calls monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Trout Unlimited today praised President Obama’s designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and other recreational users.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Trout Unlimited leaders called the monument action a “historic victory” for public lands conservation.

“TU members are proud to have played a leading role in protecting this Colorado crown jewel and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations,” said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. “This is a big bipartisan win for our outdoors heritage, and it sends a strong and clear message that hunters and anglers want to keep our public lands public.”

“I’m thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns’ wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon, which includes prime backcountry habitat for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as miles of outstanding Gold Medal wild trout waters in the Arkansas River.

TU and other sportsmen’s groups, including the National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, organized local anglers and hunters to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of this place carried weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>

###

John Gale, Director, backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation NEW

“Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate

the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families.”

###

Colorado Come to Life – Officials Colorado Tourism Site NEW



<http://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments>

###

Environment America NEW

Environment Colorado lauds protecting fishing, rafting in Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for trout fishing and whitewater rafting here in central Colorado, will gain permanent protection tomorrow as a National Monument, following decades of campaigning by outdoor enthusiasts, the tourism industry, and some of the state’s most prominent political leaders.

President Obama’s expected action, revealed this morning in the *Denver Post*, will preserve more than 20,000 rugged canyon acres surrounding the Arkansas River, a beloved area home to gold medal trout, black bears, and stunning vistas. Kim Stevens, Environment Colorado issued the following statement in response:

“Places like Browns Canyon are a big part of what makes Colorado so special. That’s why tens of thousands of Coloradans from all walks of life called for the permanent protection of this incredible landscape. That’s why we’re thrilled future generations will have the chance for the same spectacular views and opportunities to raft, hike, and fish that we enjoy [in the canyon] today.

“President Obama, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet all get credit for safeguarding this special place. Everyone who signed a petition, attended a meeting, or made a phone call to protect Browns Canyon has a lot to be proud of, too.

“Environment Colorado looks forward to continuing to work with the administration and Congress to keep pristine public lands off limits to development, mining, drilling, and pollution. Future generations of Americans and the wildlife that depend on these ecosystems deserve nothing less.”

Kim Stevens, Campaign Director, Environment Colorado

###

Twitter

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An>
#MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Conservation Alliance

Thank you @whitehouse for designating Browns Canyon National Monument! #BrownsCanyon
#monumentsmatter

<https://twitter.com/conservationall/status/568497440166453250>

Rep Ed Perlmutter

Glad to see #BrownsCanyon become a #NationalMonument today. TY @MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO &
@hickforco for your work

<https://twitter.com/RepPerlmutter/status/568483502930464769>

Jamie Williams (TWS)

Check out stunning photos of #BrownsCanyon @Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/1ALFhVL> Thank you
@BarackObama for making this place a Monument!

<https://twitter.com/JWilliamsTWS/status/568457816412987392>

NM Green Chamber

Thanks @WhiteHouse @forestsservice @BLMNational for recognizing the importance of #BrownsCanyon
for future generations! #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568546007333474304>

ConserveNM

.@BarackObama announcing #Pullman, #Honouliuli & #BrownsCanyon Nat'l. Monuments.
#MonumentsForAll #Inspiring #History

<https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status/568506630427377664>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

###

Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President’s executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

###

Governor David Ige

"President Obama's action ensures that generations to come will be able to visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp and learn about the experiences of persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to stay there during the war. The monument will remind all who visit of the terrible injustice these families endured, even while many of their husbands, sons and brothers were fighting for the United States."

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell

"The preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument is a proud moment for Honolulu, but also a bittersweet one. World War II internment camps are a dark segment of our nation's history, and the Honouliuli camp still holds memories for Honolulu residents during wartime, life in the camp, and the courage and bravery that internees displayed even as their loyalty to our country was being challenged. It is an important part of history that should always be remembered and learned from, and I want to thank the President for making this possible. As a National Monument, Honouliuli's significance will be forever honored."

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today's presidential designation of three new national monuments.

"Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation's history are among every president's greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

"Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and

Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President’s designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and

state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O'ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai'i. Built on 160 acres in west O'ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or "hell valley." Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O'ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai'i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai'i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai'i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

"As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i**.

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai'i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai'i's congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i since 1998 and rediscovered the

location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

"On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site."

"As our country's premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country's history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today's announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park

Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site's resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors."

"NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service's study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality."

"As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country's 'best idea' a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history."

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai'i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

###

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama's Designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama's designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation's complex history associated with civil rights," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "President Obama's designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors."

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai'i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai'i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents – eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America's most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) NEW

JACL Applauds the Inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System

Washington D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) applauds [President Barack Obama's designation of Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument](#). The site, located in a gulch in central Oahu, was used during World War II to imprison Japanese community leaders and their families. The monument will preserve a forgotten but important part of American history about the treatment of thousands of Americans living in Hawaii.

"I am delighted to learn that the Honouliuli incarceration site has been added to the National Park System as a National Historic Monument. We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the significance of the site as a component of World War II and as the site related to the forcible imprisonment of Japanese and other Americans. As the longest operating World War II Japanese American confinement site in Hawaii, Honouliuli represents a unique chapter in American history and a very important lesson in civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. This inclusion in the National Park System will ensure that the story of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II will continue to be told and remembered," said JACL National President David Lin.

"Today, the President opened the windows so healing winds can blow on a place that was once called 'hell valley.' Years ago, droves of innocent men were rounded up and placed in prison centers by the military because they were Japanese priests, teachers, and community leaders. Their incarceration remained a secret because of the unwarranted shame they bore for a crime they did not commit. On the

73rd anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order authorizing the internment, the government has acknowledged this story by creating a learning place where discussions about tolerance and diversity can be elevated," stated JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Honolulu, Honouliuli is the site of the largest and longest used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. Those of Japanese ancestry made up over a third of the population of Hawaii in 1941. In contrast to the mass incarceration taking place on the mainland, Japanese American community leaders and those with close cultural or economic ties to Japan were selectively targeted and detained throughout Hawaii.

The detentions began immediately following the strike on Pearl Harbor, with estimates of over 350 Issei and Nisei being arrested in the first 48 hours following the attack, and over 2,200 imprisoned by the end of the war. These people were detained at a number of sites across the Hawaiian Islands, with Honouliuli becoming the largest.

Honouliuli was opened in March of 1943 to hold U.S. Citizens and resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, as well as Japanese prisoners of war. The area housed over 150 buildings, guard towers, and tents on the 160 acre site, in addition to approximately 320 internees. Many of these people were detained for the duration of the war – a period of more than 3 years – and none were ever charged with a crime.

Honouliuli was closed in 1946 following the last of the prisoner of war repatriations and the site was sold as farmland. The site and its history were largely forgotten until the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) began to research and document Honouliuli's history in the 1990's, leading to the re-discovery of the site in 2002. Since then, a number of organizations, including the JACL Honolulu Chapter, JCCH, the University of Hawaii, and Monsanto Hawaii, have worked to preserve and interpret the site in an effort to educate the public about a largely unknown chapter of Hawaiian and American history.

In 2009, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to review Honouliuli for possible inclusion to the National Park System. In 2011, JACL passed a national resolution supporting these efforts and began meeting with members of Congress and other government officials to inform them of the historic and cultural significance of the site and to garner their support for National Park status. In December 2014, a group of staffers from the JCCH and Honolulu JACL visited officials in Washington D.C. to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System.

JACL is dedicated to securing the civil and human rights of all Americans and preserving the historical and cultural legacy of the Japanese American community. The preservation and interpretation of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites ensures that their important and distinct place in American history will continue to educate future generations against repeating injustices of the past.

<http://www.jacl.org/news/>

###

Twitter

Matt Lee-Ashley (CAP)

MT @paulsparrow1 #WWII Internment camp in #Hawaii to become national monument. #Honouliuli
#MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/MLeeAshley/status/568057959680491520>

NM Green Chamber

Mahalo #POTUS and @SecretaryJewell for protecting #Honouliuli Internment Site as unit of the
@natlparkservice. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568543970382315520>

Travel Leaders **NEW**

#Obama made #Honouliuli Internment Camp a #nationalmonument. It's a former #POW #WWII
camp.(Photos:... <http://instagram.com/p/zVa8meBcsj/>

<https://twitter.com/TravelLeaders/status/568854511823015936>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

Outdoor Industry Association

President’s Announcement on “Every Kid in a Park” and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama’s announcement today promoting the new “Every Kid in a Park” initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America’s “best idea,” our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America’s youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president’s call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind “Every Kid in a Park,” including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

“We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it’s what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative,” said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. “We accept the president’s challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children’s interaction with the outdoors a national priority.”

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country’s newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual

contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every

Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest." - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

"We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives." - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

"Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America's public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards." - **Collin O'Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

"The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America's public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation's natural resources." - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

"The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!" - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

"Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls' understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them." - **Anna Maria Chávez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

National Wildlife Foundation

Collin O'Mara in response to President Obama's announcement of a new goal to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or refuge:

"We can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

Boy at OverlookThe National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliated organizations enthusiastically support the goal put forth by President Obama today to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or wildlife refuge in the coming year. Our public lands are an important part of the American story and children receive immense benefit from learning about and directly experiencing nature, wildlife, the outdoors and public land areas.

The need for such a goal has never been higher as America's children now spend so much of their time staying indoors staring at the screens of electronic devices, watching television and playing electronic games. Research shows that the average child today spends a daily eight hours connected to such devices and spends a small fraction of their time engaged in outdoor play and nature study. This results in a lost affinity for nature, our public lands and this unique aspect of American heritage.

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America's parents, educators and child care providers to give America's 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges," says Collin O'Mara, NWF's President and CEO, "we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation provides programming to one third of all of America's 4th graders through its Ranger Rick publications, its Eco Schools USA and Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats, parent education programs and partnerships with park and wildlife agencies—all of which will directly support the President's new goal.

The National Wildlife Federation working with its partner organizations, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Recreation Coalition, the Federal Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), and our 49 state and territorial affiliates has developed nature and outdoor programs that offer 5 million children opportunities for weekly and daily nature play. Having this new presidential goal of planning for every fourth grader in America to visit a public land park, forest or refuge will support and expand on our success in reconnecting kids and families with nature and will help children at an impressionable age to actually experience some of our most beautiful and compelling natural and scenic places.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Get-Outside/2015/02-19-15-Collin-OMara-in-response-to-President-announcement-to-have-every-4th-grader-in-America.aspx>

###

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell said. "Nature is the best teacher, and our parks provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children." – WaPo Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

HECHO

Teaching Kids & Getting Them Outdoors: It's Part of Our Heritage

The following post by Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) comes at a timely moment. Today President Obama announces the "Every Kid in a Park Initiative," which aims to bring every child in the nation into the parks and public lands. It includes free admission for one full year for all fourth grade kids and their families into the National Parks. HECHO supports this initiative! (Click on the link to read the blog post)

<http://www.hechoonline.com/teaching-kids-getting-them-outdoors-its-part-of-our-heritage/>

Twitter

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks and public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>

Outdoor Industry

BREAKING: @BarackObama to announce free entrance to US public lands for 1 year for all 4th graders! #EveryKidinaPark

<https://twitter.com/OIA/status/568428622790262784>

Tommy Caldwell (Athlete)

Today the President announced the initiative "Every Kid in a Park". My wife and I are passionate about getting... <http://fb.me/1zBTzCqO9>

<https://twitter.com/tommycaldwell1/status/568515545521197056>

Patagonia

We agree with the @OIA - The Every Kid in a Park Initiative is good news. Read on:

<http://pat.ag/17hHKtE>

<https://twitter.com/patagonia/status/568501553767657472>

Trust for Public Land

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>

Conrad Anker (Athlete)

Yeah ~ President [Barack Obama](#). Thanks for recognizing the importance of our wild heritage and the benefit it has to our nation. Free access for a year to public lands for all 4th graders will get the future leaders off the digital rabbit warren and into the wild. [#everykidinapark](#) Add on Browns Canyon and today is a great day for the outdoor community. Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conrad-Anker/143199022383600?sk=info&tab=page_info

Kevin Jorgeson (Professional Climber)

How cool! @BarackObama announces year of free admission to all Ntl Parks for 4th graders, plus new ntl monuments: <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/kjorgeson/status/568518926037954561>

Range of Light

Thanks to President @BarackObama for your leadership in making this happen!
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/> ... #EveryKidinaPark @WhiteHouse #leadership

<https://twitter.com/rangeoflight/status/568511802432053248>

Latino Outdoors

"Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments | The White House" <http://wh.gov/ibeLg> @whitehouse

<https://twitter.com/LatinoOutdoors/status/568512483117305858>

Outdoor Afro

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/568478382540898304>

Girl Scouts

Thank you @BarackObama for ensuring kids across America can visit a park! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark!
=> <http://wp.me/p3qC97-i6>

<https://twitter.com/girlscouts/status/568468631367094273>

Collin O'Mara (NWF)

Today's a great day to be a 4th grader! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark ! <http://owl.li/Jlmis> Thank you @BarackObama #FindYourPark

https://twitter.com/Collin_OMara/status/568511612438446080

LCV

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568506626648502272>

National Park Trust

Shout out to @BarackObama for #EveryKidInAPark initiative! Tell us what you're doing on 5/16 for #KidstoParks Day! <http://ow.ly/Jlcaf>

<https://twitter.com/NatParkTrust/status/568504259467206656>

Natl Park Foundation

.@BarackObama just announced #EveryKidInAPark! Find out how you can take part at <http://prks.org/KidsInParks> !

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502164345237504>

MayorMatthewMarchant- City of Carrollton, TX) NEW

My rising 4th grdr will be pumped! "@johnblairindc: Pres. to announce that 4th graders & families will get in free to public lands for 1 yr!"

<https://twitter.com/MatthewMarchant/status/568439335604731905>



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

INVITATION: Join Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary Tom Vilsack on Tuesday, February 24, to Celebrate Browns Canyon and Honouliuli National Monuments

1 message

Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 6:03 PM



Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on Tuesday, February 24, at 5:30PM (EDT) for a celebration of the Browns Canyon and Honouliuli National Monuments.

President Obama designated Browns Canyon and Honouliuli Internment Camp as national monuments using his authority under the Antiquities Act. Browns Canyon spans approximately 21,500 acres of rugged cliffs, colorful rock outcroppings and stunning mountain vistas. Honouliuli national monument permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II.

We also anticipate holding local events celebrating these monuments in the coming weeks.

We hope you are able to join us on Tuesday, February 24, and ask that you **RSVP no later than Monday, February 23, by 5:00PM** by clicking [HERE](#).

Celebration of the Browns Canyon and Honouliuli National Monuments

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

5:30PM – 7:00PM

Department of the Interior

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

1849 C Street, NW Washington D.C. 20240

This invitation is non-transferable



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

test

1 message

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 6:07 PM



Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on Tuesday, February 24, at 5:30PM (EDT) for a celebration of the Browns Canyon and Honouliuli National Monuments.

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Celebration of the Browns Canyon and Honoulini National Monuments

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

5:30PM – 7:00PM

Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW Washington D.C. 20240

This invitation is non-transferable

*Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923*



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

last test

1 message

OS, Office of the Secretary <officeofthesecretary@ios.doi.gov>
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 6:16 PM



Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on Tuesday, February 24, at 5:30PM (EDT) for a celebration of the Browns Canyon and Honouliuli National Monuments.

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Celebration of the Browns Canyon and Honoulini National Monuments

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

5:30PM – 7:00PM

**Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW Washington D.C. 20240**

This invitation is non-transferable

*Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923*



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Santa Cruz Sentinel: Editorial: Monumental designation

1 message

Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 8:24 AM

To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

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Santa Cruz Sentinel: Editorial: Monumental designation

POSTED: 02/21/15, 2:00 PM PST

8 COMMENTS

Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIIPressSec
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

The rollout was certainly something to see.

An estimated 1,500 people turned out at the Kaiser Permanente Arena last week to kick off the campaign to turn a swath of wilderness along Santa Cruz County's North Coast into something much more — the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument.

Backers of the plan for the 5,800-acre Coast Dairies property trotted out 100 local elementary students to sing "This Land is Your Land."

A leader of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band opened the event with a Native American blessing of the land.

Former U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt urged the community to rally behind the plan.

State Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird, Santa Cruz's own, told the crowd Gov. Jerry Brown was backing the proposal.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, speaking via videocast, announced legislation she was launching to create the national monument. She will lead the effort in Congress, which has the power to establish national monuments, while others will lobby President Obama to make the designation through powers he hold through the federal Antiquities Act.

So, yes, plan backers certainly flexed some serious political muscle. But does that make the plan worth backing? That answer is complicated.

Bay Area conservation groups say they want to raise the land's profile, which was preserved in 1998 when environmentalists purchased the six-mile stretch of property with \$40 million from the Trust for Public Land.

But let's be clear. Raising the profile really means figuring out how to get the cash to manage the property, and this is clearly what this effort is all about. The Bureau of Land Management, which now controls the inland portion of the land, simply doesn't have the money to manage it.

Advertisement

We support the idea of actually granting the public access to protected spaces rather than just acquiring land and locking the gates, as can be the case with public land acquisition — but doing so to the extent this monument proposal would do comes with significant challenges.

The concerns from property neighbors in Davenport and Bonny Doon about traffic and strains on local public safety resources are legitimate and will need addressing. Picture the drive up Highway 1 to Davenport, especially when you're stuck behind a slow-moving RV whose driver seems oblivious to the dozens of cars stacked up behind him. Now picture thousands more people on the road. Where exactly will people access the land? Where will they park? Where will that visitor center go? What other facilities would be needed and built? No one is offering exact estimates on visitors, but Fort Ord in Monterey County, a recently designated national monument, saw 400,000 people last year.

We also have to ask: This is a grand piece of property, but what exactly qualifies it as a national monument? It's an expansive stretch of undeveloped coast in a part of the world where that is getting more and more rare, but the property also surrounds a polluted old cement plant.

The monument, meanwhile, would have redwoods in the name, but the majority of the land has none. Big Basin Redwoods State Park to the north, The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park to the south and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park to the east could each arguably claim more impressive stands.

And is it correct for the president to designate the area a monument just because he can? Use of the Antiquities Act to create these open-space monuments is a loophole, and this local push is likely happening now because of concerns a Republican-controlled Congress would close it. Obama has so far established 13 national monuments, and more are coming. Last week Obama designated a Chicago neighborhood where African-American railroad workers won a historic labor agreement as a national monument. The Honouliuli National Monument, site of an internment camp in Hawaii where Japanese-American citizens and prisoners of war were held during World War II, will come next, then the Brown's Canyon National Monument in Colorado, a popular whitewater rafting site.

Backers of the local project know the drill, and are saying and doing all the right things — they'll engage the public, seek community buy-in and address concerns.

We hope they do that. The proposal could transform the county's North Coast. It could speed transformation of the cement plant. It could be an economic boost to the entire region. But first myriad issues need to be addressed.



Avila, Steven <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Party list

3 messages

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 10:28 AM
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Steven - can you pls send Gisella the latest list of people invited to our party tomorrow?

G - can you please print it out for me?

Thanks!

Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 10:56 AM
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>


Gisella,


I've attached our external invites for tomorrow's reception. We are still working to finalize our internal invites. Let me know if you have any questions!

Steven

[Quoted text hidden]

2 attachments

 **Browns Canyon Outreach Invite List.xlsx**
16K

 **Honouliuli Reception Invite List.xlsx**
27K

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Feb 23, 2015 at 10:58 AM
To: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]

> <Browns Canyon Outreach Invite List.xlsx>

> <Honouliuli Reception Invite List.xlsx>

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Proposed Tick-Tock	Outreach	DC Event	CO Event	Organization Type	Organization	First Name	Last Name	Title	City	State	Email Address	Phone Number	Position	Notes
Tuesday - 2/17	WH	X		Elected	US Congress	Michael	Bennet	Senator			Jonathan.davidson@bennet.senate.gov			Call/email COS
Tuesday - 2/17	WH	X		Elected	US Congress	Cory	Gardner	Senator			Chris.hansen@gardner.senate.gov			Call/email COS
		X			US congress									
Tuesday - 2/17	WH	X		Elected		Joel	Hefley	Frnr. Rep (R)						
Tuesday - 2/17	WH	X		Elected		Mark	Udall	Frnr. Senator						
		X		Govt	Bureau of Land Management	Neil	Kornze	Director						
Tuesday - 2/17 HOLD		X		Local Government	Buena Vista	Duff	Lacy	Mayor Pro Tem/Trustee	Buena Vista	CO	trustelacy@buenavistaco.gov	719-365-6653		
Tuesday - 2/17 HOLD		X		Local Government	Chaffee County	Dennis	Giese	Commissioner - District 1	Salida	CO	dgiese@chaffeecounty.org	719-539-2218		Friends of BC
Tuesday - 2/17 HOLD		X		Local Government	Chaffee County	Frank	Holman	Board Chair - District 2	Salida	CO	fholman@chaffeecounty.org	719-539-2218		Oppose? http://brownscaryon.org/2012/10/30/holman-consider-browns-caryon/
Tuesday - 2/17 HOLD		X		Local Government	Chaffee County	Dave	Potts	Commissioner - District 3	Salida	CO	dpotts@chaffeecounty.org	719-539-2218		
		X		Local Government	Former State Rep	Tom	Plant	Commissioner - District 3						
		X		Local Government	Salida City Council	Tom	Yerkey	Council Member - Ward 2	Salida	CO	tom.yerkey@salidaelection.com	719-539-3427		Supports Mark Udall Press Release - 12/08/14
		X		Local Government/Business	City of Buena Vista (2008-2011) & Buena Vista CO	Joel	Benson	Mayor/President	Buena Vista	CO	mayor@buenavistaco.gov	719-221-1547		Supports Mark Udall Press Release - 12/08/14
		X		NGO	HECHO	Camilla	Simon	Program Director			Camilla.Simon - (b) (6)			
		X		NGO	HECHO	Rodrigo	Torrez	Communication Strategist			rod@hechoonline.com	(b) (6) (b) (6)		
Tuesday - 2/17	USDA	X		NGO	Hispanic Access Foundation	Sara	Bentlez	Manager			sara@hispanicaccess.org	(b) (6) (b) (6)		Supports Outdoor Alliance Colorado Letter - 12/05/14
Tuesday - 2/17	USDA	X		NGO	Hispanic Access Foundation	Maite	Arce	President/CEO			maite@hispanicaccess.org	202-640-4344		
		X		NGO	Hispanic Access Foundation	Sara	Bentlez	Community & Partner Outreach Manager			sara@hispanicaccess.org	(b) (6) 202-280-9284(c)		
		X		NGO	Hispanic Access Foundation	Rodrigo	Otarola y Bentin	Environment Program Associate			rodrigo@hispanicaccess.org	202-440-4342; 801-400-5222 (c)		
		X		NGO	Hispanic Federation	Lissette	Rodriguez	Junior Policy Analyst			lrodriguez@hispanicfederation.org	(b) (6) (b) (6)		
		X		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Gene	Karpinski	President			gene_karpinski@lcv.org	202-785-8683		
		X		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Tierman	Sittenfeld	Senior Vice President, Government Affairs			Tierman_sittenfeld@lcv.org	202-785-8683		
		X		NGO	League of Conservation Voters	Alex	Taurel	Deputy Legislative Director			alex_taur@lcv.org	202-454-4606		
		X		NGO	National Audubon Society	David	Yarnold	President & CEO			dyarnold@audubon.org	212-979-3088		
		X		NGO	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Tom	Cassidy	Government Affairs			tcassidy@savingplaces.org			
		X		NGO	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Denise	Ryan	Director of Public Lands Policy						
Tuesday - 2/17	DOI	X		NGO	National Wildlife Federation	Colin	O'Mara	President			colin@nwf.org	202-787-6892		
		X		NGO	National Wildlife Federation	Andy	Buchsbaum	Interim Executive Director			buchsbaum@nwf.org	734-887-7100		
		X		NGO	PEW	Mike	Matz	Director, US Public Lands			mmatz@pewtrusts.org	970-247-2888		
		X		NGO	Sierra Club	Michael	Brune	Executive Director			michael.brune@sierraclub.org	415-977-5500		
Tuesday - 2/17	USDA	X		NGO	Sierra Club	Athán	Manuel	Director, Lands Protection Program			athan.manuel@sierraclub.org	202-548-4580		
		X		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Kelly	Ingebritson	Western Federal Lands Associate			kingebritson@conservationfund.org		7037972517	
		X		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Katy	Reed	Director of Government Relations			kreed@conservationfund.org			
		X		NGO	The Conservation Fund	Larry	Seizer	President & CEO			lseizer@conservationfund.org		703-525-6300	
		X		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Tom	Cors	Director of Government Relations			tcors@tnc.org			
		X		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Kameron	Onley	Director, US Government Relations			konley@tnc.org		703-841-4229	
		X		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Christy	Plumer	Director, Federal Land Programs			cpumer@tnc.org			
		X		NGO	The Nature Conservancy	Mark	Teisak	President and CEO			mteisak@tnc.org; mteisak@tnc.org		703-841-5330; 703-841-8171	
		X		NGO	The Wilderness Society	Alan	Rowsome	Senior Director of Government Relations			alan_rowsome@tws.org		2024202643	
Tuesday - 2/17	DOI	X		NGO	Trust for Public Land	Kathy	DeCoster	VP and Director of Federal Affairs			kathy.decoster@tpl.org			
		X		NGO	Trust for Public Land	Will	Rogers	President & CEO			willrogers@tpl.org	202-943-7552		
		X		NGO	Val Voice	Garett	Reppenhagen				repp@valvoicefoundation.org	720-296-9645		
Tuesday - 2/17	USDA or D	X		NGO	Western Conservation Foundation	Dan	Fenn	Program Manager			danfenn@wcf.org		(b) (6)	
Tuesday - 2/17	USDA	X		NGO	Wilderness Society, The	Jamie	Williams	President			jamie_williams@tws.org		(b) (6)	
Tuesday - 2/17	USDA	X		NGO	Wys Foundation, The	Molly	McLusik	President			mclusik@wysfoundation.org	202-232-4418 ext.12		
		X		Outdoor Industry	Access Fund	Erik	Murdock	Policy Director			erik@accessfund.org	720-588-3512		Supports Outdoor Alliance Colorado Letter - 12/05/14